Babauta slams leak of 'incorrect' allowance request. PAGE 3
JGO subpoenas governor's chief of staff, 3 cops. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 219

www.saipantribune.com THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2021 www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Dems endorse Tina, Kilili

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As expected, the NMI Democratic Party has chosen Rep. Tina E. Sablan as their candidate for governor in the November 2022 general elections, and Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan for his re-election as delegate to the U.S. Congress. The party has yet to endorse a running-mate for Tina Sablan.

NMI Democratic Party chair Nola K. Hix said yesterday that the 18-member of the Central Executive Committee unanimously approved the recommendation of the Gubernatorial Search Committee to select Tina Sablan as their

See DEMS on Page 4

Tina Sablan

Kilili Sablan

RELOADING EXERCISE
Sailors assigned to the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Hampton* (SSN 767) load a MK-48 inert training shape alongside the submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) during a weapons handling exercise on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands last Oct. 22. *Frank Cable* is on patrol conducting expeditionary maintenance and logistics in support of national security in the 7th Fleet area of operations.

U.S. NAVY/MCS1 CHARLOTTE C. OLIVER

Story on PAGE 6

Camacho out on bail

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) was released Tuesday evening soon after his arrest upon posting bail in connection with an allegation that he and others assaulted a man over the weekend.

According to an order upon posting bail, it was learned that Camacho had posted a cash bail of $1,250 following his arrest last Tuesday evening in relation to the complaint filed

See CAMACHO on Page 4

The booking photo of Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) at the Department of Corrections.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2nd payment of advance child tax credit out

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» 'Those who have not received their payment yet most likely have issues with their submission'

The second payment of the advance or increased child tax credit has already been issued.

Finance Division of Revenue and Taxation director Tracy Norita said Friday that they issued the payments on that day and those who have gone on the Department of Fi-

See CHILD TAX on Page 4

The benefits of a Community Solid Waste Disposal system

TRASH TALK

By GARY SWORD
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A resident recently posted on social media a photo depicting bags of trash dumped at her family member's grave. She was furious. Imagine going to the cemetery to visit and honor your loved ones, only to find a pile of trash left behind by irresponsible and disrespectful illegal dumpers. You'd be furious too.

Story on PAGE 9

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:26pm, Nov. 3, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: 83.8%

Days since last community transmission: 1

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	30,705
Fully Vaccinated:	29,919
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,902
Fully Vaccinated:	4,737
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	882

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	18,368	42	18.410
Recovered	15,732	2	15,734
Active	2,389	42	2,431
Deaths	242	3	245

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	329	0	329
Traced via Travel Screening	256	0	256
Traced via Community Screening	73	0	73
Deaths	3	0	3

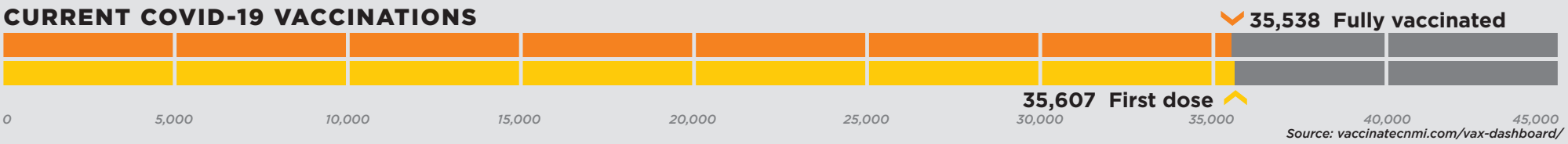
Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
Red: Least safe
Orange
Yellow
Blue
Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

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As of November 1st, 2021 Yahoo's suite of services will no longer be accessible from mainland China. Yahoo products and service remain unaffected in all other global locatio
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BUSINESS
Yahoo has pulled out of China, citing an increasingly challenging operating environment.

PAGE 11

ENVIRONMENT
One of the most enjoyable things about growing plants is talking about them with others.

PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Kristen Stewart is engaged to screenwriter Dylan Meyer. The 31-year-old actor announced Tuesday.

PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres is joined by CNMI Veterans Affairs Office executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo and VAO staff, veterans, soldiers, and other officials after yesterday's proclamation signing at the Office of the Governor. CNMI OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November is Veterans & Military Families Month

» Nov. 4-11 is CNMI Veterans Week

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In the runup to the observance of Veterans Day on Nov. 11, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres proclaimed yesterday the entire month of November as Veterans & Military Families Month and Nov. 4 to 11 as Veterans Week.

In a proclamation signing at the Office of the Governor conference room yesterday, Torres invited everyone to "acknowledge and honor the service, sacrifices, and contributions of veterans and military families for what they have done and for what they do every day to support our islands and our great Nation. On Veterans Day, we remember these heroes for their valor, their loyalty, and their dedication."

Joining Torres at the proclamation signing was CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, OVA staff, and several veterans and active service members.

The proclamation, a copy of which *Saipan Tribune* obtained, recognized the generations of men and women in the CNMI who "have boldly answered the call to serve with great pride and distinction in our nation's armed forces," and lauds them for being soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and Coast Guardsmen who have "endured many sacrifices to defend the freedoms that make our islands and nation what it is today."

The proclamation also recognizes the families who stand behind and support the CNMI's service members as their spouses, children and parents go through their own share of sacrifices, including "long deployments to relocation, adjusting to new neighborhoods and schools, having to make new friends, and sometimes putting their careers on hold."

The proclamation states that there are more than 1,000 service members and veterans in the CNMI.

The end of World War I on Nov. 11, 1918, became known as "Armistice Day" to commemorate the end of conflict at the 11th hour at the 11th day of the 11th month. On June 1, 1954, U.S. Congress changed "Armistice Day" to "Veterans Day."

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Babauta slams leak of 'incorrect' request

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) is taking issue with the alleged leak and posting on social media of a copy of her request for $3,385 in "subsistence allowance" that she said is "inaccurate and untrue."

Babauta, who chairs the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, claims that Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig may have condoned, encouraged or aided in having her "inaccurate" request posted on social media and wants an explanation from the official on how it ended up on social media.

Babauta

In her letter sent via email to Atalig, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, Babauta also attached an image of what was posted on social media.

The posted image is a copy of Babauta's one-page Sept. 14, 2021, letter requesting Atalig for $3,385 in subsistence allowance. The posted letter has the printed words "Subsistence Allowance Only $2,500 per Representative" and "Special request?"

When asked about this, Atalig said he has not seen the lawmaker's letter and that he has no comment at the moment.

In her email letter to Atalig yesterday, Babauta asked Atalig for a written response that clears her name "of this falsehood, attesting that this leaked information [for] the drawdown of $3,385, is not only accurate but untrue."

In a veiled threat, Babauta said she may resort to "judicial intervention" in the matter, which means she may sue.

She said Atalig and the person who posted it are vulnerable and open to libel and defamation "as this is an attempt to ruin her professional reputation."

Babauta said Atalig knows that the attached "subsistence allowance" request was never approved and, in fact, was withdrawn by herself.

The image copy of the request has no signature above Atalig's name to show that he approved it.

Babauta said she is being targeted by Atalig and/or Finance staff/members.

"This [is] a serious matter that I take seriously," she said.

She said it has been and will always be her standard in representing her constituents, to be honest and accountable to them. "Unfortunately, a select few in the Legislature refuse and fail to disclose how they are using public funds," Babauta said.

She said she hopes that Atalig will implement standards of professionalism among his staff to prevent false information from being published in the future "in a feeble attempt to increase in political stock of any individual."

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SALE PRICE $11,995 • STK: 22M014A • 85,000 MILES

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SALE PRICE $24,995 • 53,000 MILES • STK: 17P334 • KBB: $25,435

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SALE PRICE $19,295 • 11,576 MILES • STK:18HS902 • KBB: $19,328

2015 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT
SALE PRICE $31,995 • 70,502 MILES • STK: 5P279 • KBB: $32,299

2014 MAZDA CX-5
SALE PRICE $17,995 • 39,000 MILES • STK:21D063A • KBB: $20,209

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SALE PRICE $21,995 • 40,650 MILES • STK:15P354A

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SALE PRICE $18,995 • 10,324 MILES • STK:18HS904 • KBB: $19,904

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JGO subpoenas governor's chief of staff, 3 cops

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee has subpoenaed former Guam senator William "Wil' Mendiola Castro, who is the governor's newly hired chief of staff.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) also issued Friday subpoena on three police officers who are assigned as personal security detail with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Tudela Torres.

The JGO is investigating Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

House sergeant-at-arms Pedro O. Towai served Monday the subpoena commanding Castro to appear and testify before the JGO on Nov. 19, 2021 at 10:30pm.

Towai also served Monday the subpoenas on police officers Flora Aguon, Jhaneeka Atalig, and Joey R. Cruz. Aguon and Atalig were commanded to testify on Nov. 18, 2021 and Nov. 19, 2021, respectively, while Cruz was asked to testify on Nov. 23, 2021 at 10:30am.

Castro was commanded to testify about reimbursement for meals, hostings, and gifts claimed by or on behalf of Torres and/or Diann Torres.

Torres

Castro was also asked to testify about travel and meetings conducted or claimed by or on behalf of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and/or Diann Torres, including but not limited to reimbursement requests.

With respect to Aguon, Atalig, and Cruz, they were commanded to testify about travel performed on behalf of the government and other related matters. The officers were also asked to testify about records, incurred expenses, reimbursement requests, boat manifests, boat logs, and float plans in connection with boat trips taken by and in connection with or relating to escorting the Torreses or their relatives and friends from January 2015 to the present.

They were commanded to testify about expenses related to fuel, food, beverages, water, materials, supplies, equipment, employee compensation including overtime, purchases, purchase orders, contracts, rental agreements, boat charters, billings, and repair receipts from January 2015 up to present.

The officers were also asked to testify about incurred expenses, travel authorizations, travel vouchers, or reimbursement requests, including but not limited to per diem, stipend, lodging, airfare and transportation taken or received by the respondent from January 2015 to the present.

They were commanded to testify about any written and electronic communications, including emails and text messages relating to or concerning any non-disclosure agreements by and/or between the respondent and the Office of the Governor and/or Diann Torres, including signed non-disclosure agreements.

The officers were also asked to testify about their duties and responsibilities in relation to personal security detail assignment.

DEMS

From Page 1

candidate from four others who had submitted letters of intent to run for governor.

Hix said it was agreed that since only one candidate would be selected, the names of the four others would remain confidential.

Hix said the Central Executive Committee also voted unanimously for Gregorio Kilili Sablan, who is the only one who filed a letter of intent to run as delegate under the Democratic Party.

"We are hopeful and very excited that Tina accepted the Gubernatorial Search Committee's recommendation and nomination for her as the party's candidate," she said.

With this acceptance, Hix said, Tina Sablan requested a little more time to find her running-mate.

Tina Sablan, 39, told *Saipan Tribune* last night that the Search Committee has already begun the vetting process as to who will be her running-mate. She said her running-mate will be announced later this month.

Tina Sablan said last night that she is honored and deeply humbled to accept the nomination of the Democratic Party to stand as its candidate for governor.

"I am ready and willing to serve you, the people of the Commonwealth, as that kind of governor. We have so much work to do, to clean up our government and our islands, build an economy that raised everyone up, and chart a new path forward for a healthier, safer, fairer, and more beautiful Commonwealth that we can all be proud of," she said.

Tina Sablan also congratulated Gregorio Kilili Sablan on his nomination to run on the Democratic ticket for re-election.

"He has done incredible work for the people of the Marianas and has been a guiding light through some of our darkest times. I thank him for his willingness to continue his service in our nation's capital," she said.

In her letter of intent to run, Tina Sablan said she has spent the better part of her adult life advocating and fighting for good governance in the Commonwealth—as a legislator, as a journalist, as a citizen, and daughter of the Marianas.

Gregorio Kilili Sablan said Tina Sablan has his complete support and that he looks forward to campaigning with her on the Democratic Party ticket over the next 12 months.

"The people of the Marianas are sick and tired of old school politicians, who put their family and friends before the best interests of our islands," he said.

Gregorio Kilili Sablan said Tina Sablan will bring a new kind of leadership to the Office of Governor, based on honesty and fairness to all, focused on what is best for the next generation, not the next election.

"As you representative in the U.S. Congress, I look forward to working in full partnership with Gov. Tina Sablan. Together we will build back better in the Marianas," he said.

The two Sablans are no stranger to working together, as Tina Sablan used to be the former outreach coordinator/deputy communications director at office of Gregorio Kilili Sablan in the CNMI.

The Democratic Party's opposing camp, the NMI Republican Party, has already endorsed the tandem of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Sen. Vinnie "Vinson" Sablan (R-Saipan) as its standard-bearer in. the 2022 election.

Torres' previous running-mate, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, has also announced that he will be running for governor with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang as his running-mate under an independent ticket.

Hix said Tina Sablan has requested that the party assist her with the search for a running-mate so they will continue their outreach for a potential lieutenant governor from now for two weeks.

She said the party is accepting nominations and letters of intent for any individuals interested in seeking election for lieutenant governor.

Hix said nominations and letters of intent must be addressed to her via email at chairwoman@nmidems.org. All letters must be received on or before Nov. 17, 2021.

The Central Executive Committee gathered Tuesday night to receive the Gubernatorial Search Committee's recommendation for the party's candidate.

The party's vice chairman, Daniel Quitugua, said the five-man Search Committee was formed a little over a month and a half ago at the request of the party's elected officials to seek out potential candidates in the event that Gregorio Sablan decides not to run for governor.

"It was definitely a tough decision to make but when the search committee concluded its candidate interviews—Tina Sablan was at the top of everyone's list," Quitugua said.

CHILD TAX

From Page 1

nance's portal and have not received a payment yet should to look in their bank accounts or in their mailbox in the next couple of days as they might see a payment there.

"The portal is still open for submission of dependent information," she said at press briefing Friday.

Last September, Finance distributed $882,000 in payments of the advance or increased tax credit through direct deposit and checks.

The CNMI is authorized to make monthly payments of the child tax credit to eligible families amounting to $250 or $300, depending on the age of the child. The payments will be up to December 2021.

Norita said if taxpayers had gone on the portal and submitted information and still did not get a payment, most likely there is an issue with their submissions.

She said she has seen several times where a taxpayer would go on the portal, submit the date of birth, but under the wrong social security number.

"As we've always mentioned in the past, please be careful when you're submitting information. Make sure it's as accurate as possible. Because we do have to validate that information prior to issuing the payment," she said.

Norita said they also have a question for the advance or increased child tax credit around the calculation of the amount that the taxpayers are receiving.

"Because the payments began in August, what we do is base your payment on the remaining months. So if your first payment is in October, you take your total benefit, which is 50% of the credit," she said.

Norita said a lot of people were expecting the whole $3,000 upfront.

"But again, it's 50% of the credit divided by the remaining eligible months. So whatever is 50% of your credit, if your first payment is in October, the remaining will be divided amongst the remaining months: October, November, December," she said.

Norita said taxpayers get the remaining benefit amount, the other 50%, when they file their tax return next year.

As to questions or inquiries regarding all other types of tax refunds, the director said their normal processing time is every other Friday that they allow their staff to enter and clear as many errors as they can. She said they ten do what they call a global matching and validation and then they batch a payment every other Friday.

"We also have our call center that is up and helping to inform taxpayers of what their issues are," Norita said.

CAMACHO

From Page 1

by Commonwealth Ports Authority's Steve Koch who is alleging that the lawmaker and two others "jumped" him last Friday evening, Oct. 29.

Upon posting bail, Camacho was immediately released from Department of Corrections custody and was ordered to return to court for his arraignment on Nov. 16.

Tiepo A. Nikiti, one of the individuals who allegedly participated in the crime with Camacho, will also be arraigned on Nov. 16.

In a statement from Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds from the Office of the Attorney General Criminal Division, he said that Camacho and Nikiti are being charged with one count of assault and battery and one count of disturbing the peace.

"DPS investigation found that Vicente Camacho and two other individuals physically assaulted another individual causing physical injury. Based on the allegations, the nature of the crime and the injuries sustained by the victim, an arrest warrant for assault and battery and DTP was issued for Camacho. Camacho was then arrested pursuant to that arrest warrant on Nov. 2," he said.

According to an affidavit for probable cause in support of the arrest warrant, Department of Public Safety investigators managed to speak with the only witness to the incident, Steve Koch's daughter, Melanie Koch.

Melanie Koch told police that she saw her father being taken to the ground by Camacho or "Uncle Ben" while Nikiti and another minor individual held her away from her father and Camacho.

Melanie Koch said she observed all three men punching her father in the head at one point and when she approached Camacho to get him to stop punching her father, she claims she smelled a strong odor of beer when he exhaled.

DPS investigators also managed to speak with Nikiti last Tuesday who stated that he lives with Camacho in his residence.

On the night of the incident, at around 11pm on Oct. 29, Nikiti said he observed a verbal confrontation between Camacho and Steve Koch at Ignacio Concepcion's residence in China Town.

He said when he approached the two, he saw Steve and Camacho fall to the ground, both holding each other, and he attempted to pull Steve away from Camacho.

Nikiti said he observed Steve lying face flat on his stomach and that he sat on top of Steve's back.

"The fight lasted about five minutes. I saw punches being thrown before Steve was pinned down to the ground. I will not say who," he said.

When sought for comments, NMI Democratic Party chair Nola K. Hix expressed hope that the family can resolve its differences peacefully and without further incident. "We need to hear from all concerned and wait until all the facts are out before passing judgment on anyone," she said.

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) said the case is under investigation and so that process is going on. "I will respect that process for now until more information comes out," said Villagomez.

The Department of Public Safety is investigating into a complaint by

Steve Koch, a 59-year-old master electrician at the Commonwealth Ports Authority, said that Camacho was one of three men who assaulted him near a residence in China Town Friday night. Koch said he is a bladder cancer survivor.

Camacho has denied assaulting Koch, saying that Koch was the one who assaulted him and his two sons. ***(With Ferdie de la Torre)***

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USS *Frank Cable* conducts expeditionary reload with USS *Hampton* alongside

By CHARLOTTE OLIVER
USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40)

The submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) completed a weapons handling exercise involving the transfer of a MK-48 inert training shape to a submarine last Oct. 22. This was the first expeditionary reload *Frank Cable* has conducted outside of Guam since 2012.

Working alongside the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Hampton* (SSN 767), sailors and civil service mariners with Military Sealift Command worked together to complete the exercise safely and efficiently.

"This exercise was instrumental to developing the expeditionary combat capabilities that our submarine tenders and submarines bring to the Pacific theater," said Capt. Albert Alarcon, *Frank Cable*'s commanding officer. "Every training opportunity helps assure our readiness for any contingency."

Sailors first transferred the deck skid to *Hampton* via crane, where it was attached and assembled on the submarine before transferring the MK-48 inert shape. The crew also had to take into account any rocking of the ship and submarine to ensure the transfer went smoothly.

Sailors assigned to the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Hampton guide a MK-48 inert training shape to the deck skid during a weapons handling exercise alongside the submarine tender USS Frank Cable on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands last Oct. 22.
U.S. NAVY/MCS1 CHARLOTTE C. OLIVER

"Due to early and often coordination of this exercise, both *Frank Cable* and *Hampton* were able to adapt and safely execute a weapons handling evolution in a new and demanding geographic location," said Lt. Brandon Shellenberger, *Frank Cable*'s weapons officer. "The overall execution was great, and everyone demonstrated professionalism and dedication to accomplish the mission."

For some, it was their first weapons handling evolution working with two different platforms. Still, the crews worked seamlessly with each other.

"Working with F*rank Cable*'s crew of Navy sailors and MSC civilian mariners is nostalgic for me, as I recall my first deployment as a junior officer on USS *Chicago* and mooring outboard *Frank Cable* in Hong Kong," said Cmdr. Phillip Sylvia, Jr., *Hampton*'s commanding officer. "Now in command during my second deployment, *Frank Cable* continues to provide excellent support for my crew ranging from ordnance, as demonstrated today, to mailing a letter home from their post office. They do it all to support the warfighter."

The evolution was lengthy. For some, they were able to bring their submarine experience to an exercise that many *Frank Cable* sailors and civil service mariners had yet to experience in their careers.

"This MSC team onboard *Frank Cable* has always been able to work effortlessly with any Navy detachment to accomplish any goal we are tasked with," said Torpedoman's Mate 1st Class Robert Hollister, Frank Cable's W-1 division leading petty officer.

"*Hampton*'s weapons department was a very professional and efficient handling team," Hollister said of working with the submarine sailors. "My team and I would be glad to work with them again."

Both crews followed all fleet-mandated COVID protocols with no impact to the exercise.

Frank Cable, forward-deployed to the island of Guam, repairs, rearms, and reprovisions submarines and surface vessels in the Indo-Pacific region. *Frank Cable* is on patrol conducting expeditionary maintenance and logistics in support of national security in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

Under Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with 35 maritime nations in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Sailors assigned to the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Hampton* handle lines during a weapons handling exercise involving the transfer of a MK-48 inert training shape alongside the submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands last Oct. 22
U.S. NAVY/MCS1 CHARLOTTE C. OLIVER

Torpedoman's Mate 3rd Class Kyle Taylor of Belleville, New Jersey, left, assembles a deck skid used for loading torpedoes aboard the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Hampton on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands last Oct. 22. *Hampton* is alongside the submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* for a weapons handling exercise involving the transfer of a MK-48 inert training shape.
U.S. NAVY/MCS1 CHARLOTTE C. OLIVER

Sonar Technician (Submarine) 2nd Class Eric Bauer of Albuquerque, New Mexico, attaches the intermediate rail for loading torpedoes on the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Hampton during a weapons handling exercise involving the transfer of a MK-48 inert training shape alongside the submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands last Oct. 22.
U.S. NAVY/MCS1 CHARLOTTE C. OLIVER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-003

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BUCKET TRUCKS AND TRUCK CRANE

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of six bucket trucks and one 30ton truck crane for the CUC Power Distribution in Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United states Department of the Interior (USDOIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-22-003, Supply and Delivery of Bucket Trucks and Truck Crane)"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 6, 2021** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 12, 2021**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC Power Division Manager via email lee.lieto@cucgov.org, and Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Division Engineer at email adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      1. October 5, 2021 – Regular Meeting

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]

III. **REPORTS**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
   a. Casino Service Industry
      1) Matsui Asia Limited
      2) United States Playing Cards Company
   b. Casino License
      1) Alter City Group, Inc.
      2) Tinian Entertainment Company

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]

VII. **OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**
   a. Bridge Investment Group's Letter Dated 07/27/2021

VIII. **MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

2.7K Pfizer kid doses arriving Saturday

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 2,000 pediatric doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine will be arriving this Saturday, Nov. 6, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña in a virtual news briefing yesterday.

Muña said the doses will be rolled out starting Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center "as quickly as possible."

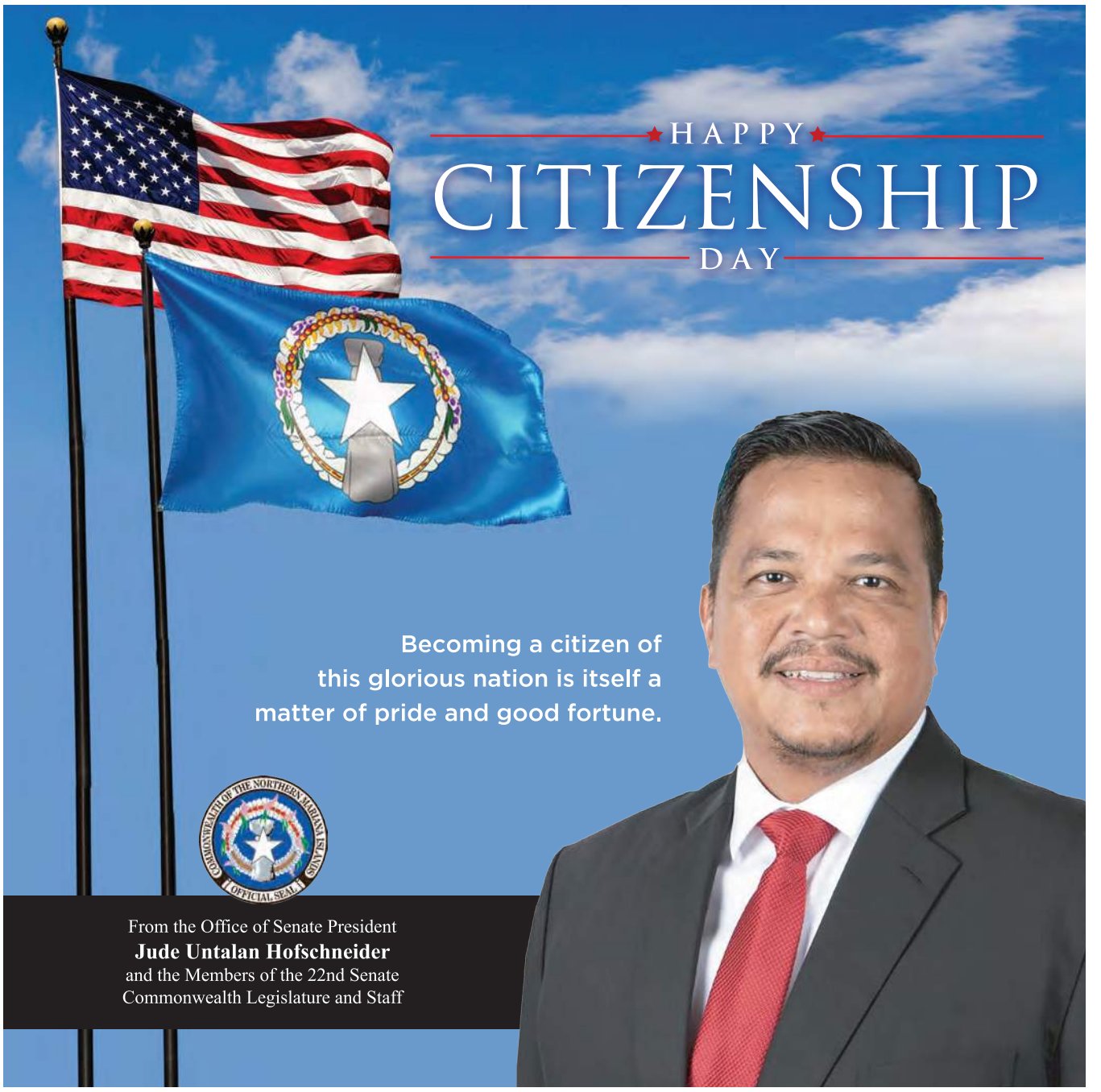
Muña said she and CHCC want to make the doses available to the community as soon as possible, and added that CHCC will be working on rollouts at other vaccination sites on Saipan and on Tinian and Rota.

"It will be pushed out to Tinian and Rota as well. ...The reason why we want to roll it out on Saturday is [that] we already have it. We don't want to wait until Monday, but we will probably need Monday to start distributing it to other sites. There [are] individual providers that are willing to be a part of the rolling out of these vaccines to the kids, and we're going to get into that as well. We're going to work on that on Monday," she said.

The doses of the Pfizer vaccine for children aged 5 to 11, like the adult version of the Pfizer vaccine, is a two-shot regimen. This would mean that, once completed, there should be over 1,300 fully-vaccinated children in this age group, but Muña assured that "CHCC will be getting more supplies as the days go by."

On Oct. 29 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the Pfizer vaccine for emergency use in children aged 5 to 11. Up next was approval by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and on Nov. 2 the committee's 14 members unanimously voted to approve the Pfizer vaccine for the age group. Later in the day, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky endorsed on Nov. 2 a recommendation to vaccinate children aged 5 to 11.

Saipan Tribune first reported last week that CHCC pre-ordered 2,700 pediatric doses of the Pfizer vaccine in anticipation of CDC approval, and also reported that, along with the vaccines itself, "ancillary supply kits such as needles, syringes, and other [personal protective equipment] for clinical staff to safely administer the vaccines" will be delivered to the CNMI.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Rolling back labor and environmental protections won't fix supply chain disruptions

With everyone from President Joe Biden to Gov. Gavin Newsom focused on fixing supply chain disruptions that have clogged the ports, created product shortages and raised prices, California business groups are offering their, um, solution: roll back state labor protections and slash environmental protections.

In a letter to Newsom, the business groups, which include associations representing retailers, trucking firms and farmers, laid out eight mostly opportunistic requests that would do little to relieve the backup at the ports.

They urged the governor to suspend implementation of Assembly Bill 701, a law he signed last month that would require warehouse employers, such as Amazon, to disclose productivity quotas for workers "until the supply chain has normalized." The law, which takes effect Jan. 1, also prohibits quotas that in effect prevent workers from taking state-mandated breaks.

They also urged him to suspend Assembly Bill 5, the state's "gig worker" law, which sets strict rules on when workers could be classified as independent contractors. In the letter, the groups argue they need to suspend the law to "allow independent truckers to operate" in the state, again, until the supply chain has normalized.

And they asked him to delay Southern California's new rule requiring that sprawling warehouse distribution centers cut pollution from their facilities or pay a fee to help reduce emissions off-site.

It probably shouldn't be a surprise that business groups are lobbying for less regulation. It's a perennial plea—and, at times, a worthy one. There may be reasonable tweaks to local and state policies to address this moment, but California cannot trade away progress on larger environmental or labor protections that are essential to building a healthier, more equitable state, for "solutions" that solve nothing.

Besides, whittling down labor protections in the logistics sector will only hurt the supply chain in the long run. While Biden urged operators at the ports of L.A. and Long Beach to work around the clock to move backlogged containers, terminal operators are seeing little demand for nighttime pickups. Why? There is a shortage of truck drivers and warehouse workers—partly because the sector is notorious for low pay, poor conditions and unreliable shifts—and there are not enough workers for 24-hour-a-day operations.

The state can't ease up on environmental protections, either. Southern California has a 2023 deadline to dramatically cut smog-forming emissions to meet Clean Air Act standards. The region will almost certainly miss the deadline as it is and could face hefty federal penalties, including the withholding of billions of dollars in federal highway funding.

The world is experiencing an international supply chain disruption that has been years in the making. The state cannot solve it on the backs of struggling workers trying to make ends meet and communities inundated with freight pollution.

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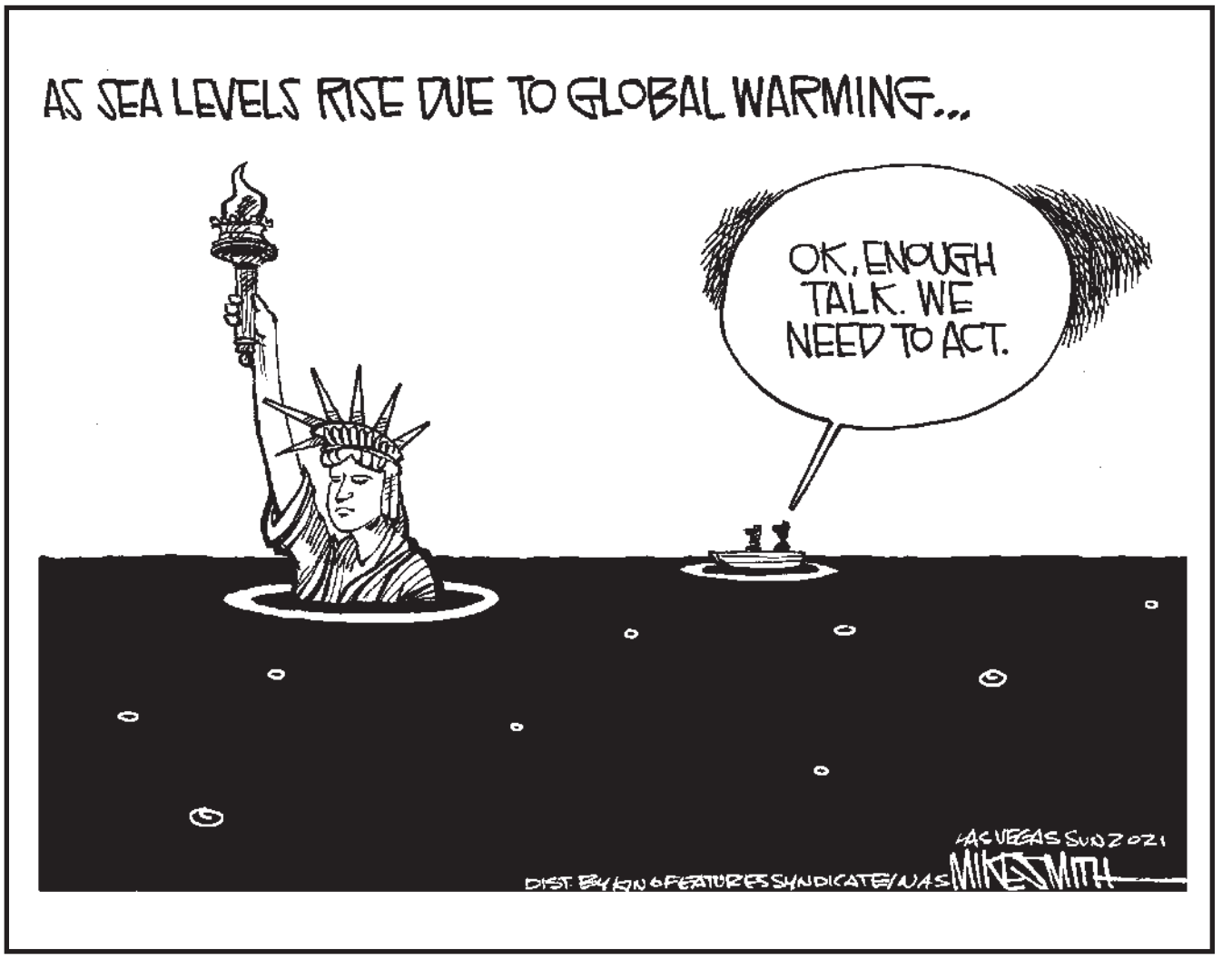
AS SEA LEVELS RISE DUE TO GLOBAL WARMING...
OK, ENOUGH TALK. WE NEED TO ACT.
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Democrats: History shows it's not best to go it alone

By GARY FRANKS
Tribune News Service

Gary Franks served three terms as U.S. representative for Connecticut's 5th District. He was the first Black Republican elected to the House in nearly 60 years and New England's first Black member of the House. Host: podcast We Speak Frankly. *Author*: With God, For God, and For Country. @GaryFranks

Whenever we had major social legislation pass and become law, we had both political parties involved in the process. The measures passed with a substantial number of Democrat and Republican support, regardless of party ideology or who occupied the Oval Office. This has served our country well.

Bipartisanship, in essence, died with the Affordable Care Act when Democrats decided to go it alone. The jury may still be out on the ACA even 11 years out, but a significant piece of the Build Back Better plan includes provisions to prop it up. There have also been at least two Supreme Court decisions on its legality and Congress has spent thousands of man hours trying to overturn it. Not exactly a smooth transition.

President Biden's Build Back Better (BBB) social welfare spending plan is far more robust, according to Biden and unprecedented, according to Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Yet, obviously not learning anything from the passage of the Affordable Care Act, Democrats are insisting on going it alone again, while literally holding the bipartisan infrastructure bill hostage.

The tax-and-spend approach will not bring Republicans into the tent and is causing concern among moderate Democrats who realize that socialism does not work, despite the insistence of Sen. Bernie Sanders. We are not all entitled to free stuff. It was a failure even when tried by the pilgrims and early settlers in the 17th century.

Here's a sure-fire way a major part of the BBB bill could be adopted with a significant number of Republican votes. This plan would help bring America together and help end the gridlock in Congress.

The merits of each new social program offered in BBB should be evaluated, tested, and debated by Congress. The best test is to pay for the program by eliminating or reducing the federal spending on one or some of the 80-plus social welfare programs already on the books at an annual cost of nearly $1 trillion. This could not only give the Biden administration a legitimate means of showing how it would be paid for, but it would result in no new taxes being imposed on Americans. Republicans could embrace this. The left gets new social spending programs, and the right gets fiscal responsibility. The country ultimately wins. The losers would be Japan and China who have already allowed us to borrow over $2 trillion and would welcome lending us more.

It would be a true test, a true debate. Sell your new program accompanied by an offset to the budget.

Taxing the rich as the go-to solution is incredibly old. I would guess every populist Democrat has promoted this theme. I beat a classic tax-and-spend liberal in 1990.

Connecticut can attest to the fact that new taxes, such as a newly imposed state income tax in 1991, can hurt. It radically altered the economy and attractiveness of the state to many folks. The population of Connecticut has resulted in a lost member of Congress and one of the slowest population growths in the nation. Some people vote with their feet. They go elsewhere.

Today, 61 percent of all the tax revenue comes from the top 5 percent of wage earners. The top 1 percent supply 40 percent of all our tax revenue. I assume they are the new targets of the BBB. Most of these folks did not get to be among the top 1 percent by being stupid or by failing to protect their best interests. What will they do? Leaving America is a bit extreme. It's not like leaving a state. Hypothetically speaking, if just 5 percent of these folks did leave the U.S., the loss of tax revenue would cause a fiscal crisis, adding so much to our national debt so quickly that it would resemble a hemorrhage. Once again, I am not predicting this, but the mere thought should be of concern.

The other target in the tax-and-spend BBB is corporations. This could add fuel to the fire as corporations, taxed under this plan, to compensate for the higher tax burden, would likely increase prices on their products and services driving up inflation. Companies are motivated by profit. The consumer will lose with BBB.

I implore Congress to review history. Check the Social Security Act, Medicare, Medicaid, Civil Rights Acts, Voting Rights Act, etc., they all passed with strong bipartisan support, and they helped make America better without the use of tax-and-spend policies. If we're going to build back better, let's start there.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The benefits of a Community Solid Waste Disposal system

TRASH TALK

By GARY SWORD
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gary Sword is chairman of the Universal Garbage Collection Task Force and is vice president of the KKMP radio station, one of the most popular and beloved stations in the Marianas, and has extensive experience in power, water, wastewater, and solid waste services. Sword serves as a member of the Domestic Policy Recovery Committee for the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers.

A resident recently posted on social media a photo depicting bags of trash dumped at her family member's grave. She was furious. Imagine going to the cemetery to visit and honor your loved ones, only to find a pile of trash left behind by irresponsible and disrespectful illegal dumpers. You'd be furious too.

As chairman of the CNMI Universal Garbage Collection Task Force, I strongly advocate for the strict enforcement of anti-littering laws in the Marianas to penalize violators. However, legal action should be complemented with an efficient system that would address our never-ending problems with waste management. Again, I remind our community that thousands of containers of goods come into the CNMI and NOT ONE container of waste is exported. It all goes into the landfill or is randomly discarded.

A substantial percentage of our garbage and solid waste is household waste, which can become hazardous if not collected or adequately managed. Yes, organic domestic waste such as leftover food can pose a serious threat when they ferment and create conditions favorable to the survival and growth of microbial pathogens. The flies, maggots, and other pests you see surrounding a pile of trash left at a picnic site near the beach not only smell bad but also spreads diseases.

Regular collection of solid waste keeps neighborhoods clean and reduces health risks. Solid waste collection means gathering it from where it is produced—from homes and businesses—and transporting it, either to an intermediate collection site or to a final place of recycling or disposal.

There are three types of waste collection:

Household collection results when members of a family collect their solid waste in containers and carry it to a composting, recycling or disposal site or secondary storage. This is suitable for the collection of small amounts of waste at the local or neighborhood level. Waste is processed and disposed of at a transfer station or landfill.

Neighborhood collection results when a representative of several households collects their waste and takes it to a composting, recycling, or disposal site. This is suitable for the collection of larger amounts of waste and will require a motor vehicle. Most community collection in the CNMI is through commercial entities and is currently the most utilized method in the Commonwealth.

Community collection is when households and businesses put their waste out and paid government-hired contractors collect the waste containers and sort them to a community composting, recycling, or disposal site. This is a communal collection system where households are issued waste containers and/or recycling bins that are placed at the curb for collection on a regular schedule. Larger trash containers are also placed in common public areas and are also collected on a schedule.

This method requires fees to pay for the waste collection contractors but residents and businesses will no longer need to haul or drive to dispose of their garbage. Ultimately, this arrangement reduces the cost per household to collect their trash as the collection cost is spread over the entire population (universal). Universal Garbage Collection also allows the CNMI to easily gravitate toward recycling and other "green" opportunities for our CNMI community.

Under our proposed Universal Garbage Collection system, we are suggesting having a Community Solid Waste Disposal system. Our current garbage collection process utilizes collection contractors, but the systematic collection and availability of appropriate trash containers in critical places are not enough to meet the community's demand. Placement of waste containers in homes, businesses, and markets will make it accessible to the collection team. Establishing a collection route is also essential in keeping efforts efficient. Routes should be as short and simple as possible and end as near and practical to the disposal site.

Currently only 4,000-5,000 households and businesses out of the 12,000 homes and businesses on Saipan utilize the current trash collection scheme. Where do the other 7,000-8,000 homes and businesses take their garbage? Your guess is as good as mine.

Can 1,000 enforcement officers monitor 9,000 homes and businesses 24 hours a day? IMIPOSIBLE! This is why you see your neighbors dumping their trash in parking lots or driving to the boonies to illegally dispose of their garbage. This behavior passes the burden to the entire community, and we will pay an even higher price as their garbage pollutes the soil, ocean and our drinking water sources. This puts our entire community health and safety at serious risk.

If we continue to believe that garbage is not our shared responsibility, we are condemning our children to a polluted environment.

For more information about the Universal Garbage Collection initiative, visit the GCEA website at cnmieconomy.com. Engage with the UGC Task Force via email at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

Happy Citizenship Day, Marianas

By RALPH DLG TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Editor's Note: The following is the governor's official statement on Citizenship Day, which is celebrated today.

On this day 35 years ago, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands became full-fledged members of the American family. Citizenship Day is not only a reminder of our allegiance to the United States as citizens, but also of our strengthened relationship with our federal and military partners.

As we enter the month of November, we are reminded of the sacrifices of our veterans and the continued devotion of our soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, coast guardsmen, and reservists. We thank them for their service each and every day.

We are stronger because of our relationships with key federal agencies who have helped us recover from disasters, rebuild our economy, and overcome this pandemic. As we continue on this road to full recovery, our partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Defense, and countless others has protected our community.

On behalf of a grateful island community, I want to thank our federal and military partners for their relationship as members of the American family. Citizenship gives us the opportunity to build a stronger Marianas, and I remain committed to this goal as governor.

To negotiate with the Taliban, bring women to the table

By BOBBY GHOSH
Bloomberg Opinion

Bobby Ghosh is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He writes on foreign affairs, with a special focus on the Middle East and Africa.

Two and a half months since the fall of Kabul, the international community has yet to figure out how to stop Afghanistan's new masters from imposing harsh restrictions on women's freedoms. Yet one shift in the way negotiators handle their dealings with the Taliban would go a long way toward holding the regime accountable.

Having promised to make the Taliban stick to their promises of inclusivity, the Biden administration is under pressure to make the resumption of American aid conditional on the protection of women's rights. The issue also is routinely raised by delegations from foreign governments, the United Nations and aid agencies that have made their way to Kabul since mid-August, seeking reassurances that the new regime won't go back on its word.

It isn't only the liberal West that sees the Taliban's treatment of women as an early indicator of how the Taliban will rule. Even China, perhaps the most eager of the world powers to do business with the regime, has admonished the Taliban's leaders to preserve women's rights.

But with so few women present for these high-stakes discussions, the Taliban might wonder whether they need to take these exhortations seriously. The gender bias has been so noticeable that the advocacy group Human Rights Watch has been keeping a running Twitter thread of all-male missions that arrive to press the former militants on humanitarian and other matters.

The absence of women in these discussions would be unconscionable at any time and under all circumstances, but especially now and in dealings with a deeply misogynistic regime. More than words, the Taliban should be given constant demonstration of the norms of the international community they say they want to join.

This can be accomplished with two simple measures.

First, women should comprise at least half of every foreign delegation to Kabul. At every possible opportunity, the lead interlocutor or negotiator should be a woman. Every time a Taliban leader sits across the table from visitors, he should see and experience what most of world agrees is a woman's rightful place. The standard this will set is a necessary precondition to any meaningful change in attitude.

Second, every foreign delegation calling on the Taliban to discuss international aid should insist that there be women at the other side of the table. This will force the Taliban to look beyond its own ranks for representation, another necessary prerequisite for change. It isn't enough to make the restoration of international support and investment conditional on how women are treated. Women must be actively be involved in the negotiations, so they can help set the terms for how aid will be administered.

The same conditions should apply to any Taliban delegation traveling abroad.

The Taliban will likely balk at these requirements at first, but they can ill afford to refuse: 80% of the last Afghan budget was funded by the U.S. and other donors. Taliban leaders might claim that exposing women to strangers is contrary to their faith or culture, but these specious arguments are easily countered by the example of other deeply conservative societies that are dropping many gender restrictions.

One challenge to this approach will be ensuring that the international community lines up behind it. Yet the virtue is self-evident, and it should be well within the ability of the Biden administration to rally global opinion. Vice President Kamala Harris, who has pledged U.S. support for Afghan women, has the stature to lead on this issue.

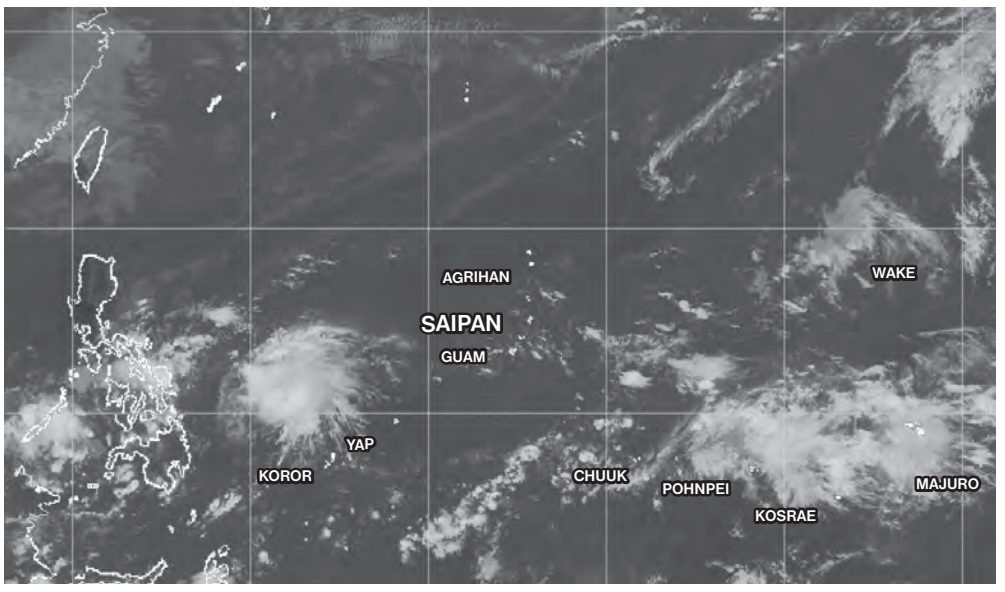
Unanimity among foreign groups would be ideal, but it isn't essential. It will suffice if the most visible Western governments and multilateral organizations like the U.N. insist on having women literally at the table when talking to the Taliban. Any nation or organization that breaks ranks should then be called out—and obliged to explain why its rhetoric about women's rights isn't matched by its actions.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:31 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. A few of the showers to the east, near 150E, are becoming thunderstorms. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, mainly composed of east-northeast trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:15 AM	5:20 PM	-
Friday	6:16 AM	6:08 PM	-
Saturday	7:20 AM	7:00 PM	-
Sunday	8:27 AM	7:58 PM	-
Monday	9:34 AM	9:01 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°
Beijing	Showers	77° / 66°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 72°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 50°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	67° / 57°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 72°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 50°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	64° / 46°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	68° / 50°
Salem	Sunny	79° / 59°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	59° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	54° / 34°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 48°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	78° / 52°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:53 AM	Low Tide	0.04
7:07 AM	High Tide	1.84
12:59 PM	Low Tide	0.55
6:46 PM	High Tide	1.99

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 28, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Yahoo pulls out of China, citing 'challenging' environment

HONG KONG (AP)—Yahoo Inc. said Tuesday it has pulled out of China, citing an increasingly challenging operating environment.

The withdrawal was largely symbolic, as many of the company's services were already blocked by China's digital censorship. But recent government moves to expand its control over tech companies generally, including its domestic giants, may have tipped the scales for Yahoo.

"In recognition of the increasingly challenging business and legal environment in China, Yahoo's suite of services will no longer be accessible from mainland China as of November 1," the company said in a statement. It said it "remains committed to the rights of our users and a free and open internet."

The company's move comes as the American and Chinese governments feud over technology and trade. The U.S. has put restrictions on telecom giant Huawei and other Chinese tech companies, alleging that they have ties with China's government, military or both. China says the U.S. is unfairly suppressing competition and trying to block China's technological rise.

7:23
yahoo!
English | 繁體中文 | 简体中文
As of November 1st, 2021 Yahoo's suite of services will no longer be accessible from mainland China. Yahoo products and services remain unaffected in all other global locations.
Thank you for your support and readership.
Mail account, please click
URL into your
A smart phone shows the home page of Yahoo when accessed inside China in Beijing, China, Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021. AP

Yahoo is the latest foreign tech company to exit China. Google gave up several years ago, and Microsoft's professional networking platform LinkedIn said last month it would shutter its Chinese site, replacing it with a jobs board instead. The departures illustrate the choices internet companies face in a huge potential market, but one where the government requires them to censor content and keywords deemed politically sensitive or inappropriate.

In their place, Chinese companies have filled the void, creating an alternative internet with its own digital giants. The Baidu search engine has largely replaced Yahoo and Google in China, and WeChat and Weibo are the leading social media platforms.

Yahoo's departure coincided with the implementation of China's Personal Information Protection Law, which limits what information companies can gather and sets standards for how it must be stored.

Chinese laws also stipulate that companies operating in the country must hand over data if requested by authorities, making it difficult for Western firms to operate in China as they may also face pressure back home over giving in to China's demands.

Yahoo was harshly criticized by lawmakers in the U.S. in 2007 after it handed over data on two Chinese dissidents to Beijing, eventually leading to their imprisonment.

Yahoo had previously downsized its operations in China, dropping a music and email service in the early 2010s and shuttering its Beijing office in 2015. Anyone who tried to access Engadget China, a tech news site that it had continued to operate, was greeted Tuesday with a popup saying the site would no longer publish content.

China has also blocked most international social media sites and search engines, such as Facebook and Google. Some users in China circumvent the block by using a virtual private network (VPN) that masks who you are and where you are logging in from.

Verizon Communications Inc. acquired Yahoo in 2017 and merged it with AOL, but later sold the entity off to private equity firm Apollo Global Management in a $5 billion deal. Apollo announced in September that its acquisition of Yahoo was complete.

Matson publishes new environmental sustainability goals

HONOLULU—Matson, Inc., a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific, has published new long-term environmental goals in a Sustainability Report 2020 Supplement that commit the company to reducing fleet greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030, and achieving net zero fleet GHG emissions by 2050.

"We are committed to doing our part in helping the world decarbonize and limit climate change," said Matt Cox, chairman and chief executive officer. "We believe we have a responsibility to significantly reduce our carbon footprint by lowering our greenhouse gas emissions and our aim is to achieve these medium- and long-term goals by improving fleet and operational efficiency.

"Matson is supporting efforts to create an industry-funded research and development program to accelerate zero-carbon fuels and technologies. While these transformative technologies develop, we will continue to focus on improving the efficiency of our fleet and terminal operations."

Other highlights of Matson's 2020 Supplement include:

- **Environment:** Reduced fleet GHG emissions by 23% since 2016
- **Safety:** Reduced shoreside lost time injuries by 10% from 2019
- **Community:** Achieved 2020 vessel schedule reliability of 98% in Hawaii service, 97% in Alaska service and 92% in Guam service

More information about Matson's sustainability goals and how it plans to achieve them is available in its Sustainability Report 2020 Supplement posted online at: www.matson.com/sustainability.

Founded in 1882, Matson is a leading provider of ocean transportation and logistics services to the domestic noncontiguous economies of Hawaii, Alaska, and Guam, and to other island economies in Micronesia. Additional information about the company is available at www.matson.com. ***(PR)***

Facebook to shut down face-recognition system, delete data

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Facebook said it will shut down its face-recognition system and delete the faceprints of more than 1 billion people amid growing concerns about the technology and its misuse by governments, police and others.

"This change will represent one of the largest shifts in facial recognition usage in the technology's history," Jerome Pesenti, vice president of artificial intelligence for Facebook's new parent company, Meta, wrote in a blog post on Tuesday.

He said the company was trying to weigh the positive use cases for the technology "against growing societal concerns, especially as regulators have yet to provide clear rules." The company in the coming weeks will delete "more than a billion people's individual facial recognition templates," he said.

Facebook's about-face follows a busy few weeks. On Thursday it announced its new name Meta for Facebook the company, but not the social network. The change, it said, will help it focus on building technology for what it envisions as the next iteration of the internet—the "metaverse."

The company is also facing perhaps its biggest public relations crisis to date after leaked documents from whistleblower Frances Haugen showed that it has known about the harms its products cause and often did little or nothing to mitigate them.

More than a third of Facebook's daily active users have opted in to have their faces recognized by the social network's system. That's about 640 million people. Facebook introduced facial recognition more than a decade ago but gradually made it easier to opt out of the feature as it faced scrutiny from courts and regulators.

Facebook in 2019 stopped automatically recognizing people in photos and suggesting people "tag" them, and instead of making that the default, asked users to choose if they wanted to use its facial recognition feature.

Facebook's decision to shut down its system "is a good example of trying to make product decisions that are good for the user and the company," said Kristen Martin, a professor of technology ethics at the University of Notre Dame. She added that the move also demonstrates the power of public and regulatory pressure, since the face recognition system has been the subject of harsh criticism for over a decade.

Meta Platforms Inc., Facebook's parent company, appears to be looking at new forms of identifying people. Pesenti said Tuesday's announcement involves a "company-wide move away from this kind of broad identification, and toward narrower forms of personal authentication."

"Facial recognition can be particularly valuable when the technology operates privately on a person's own devices," he wrote. "This method of on-device facial recognition, requiring no communication of face data with an external server, is most commonly deployed today in the systems used to unlock smartphones."

Apple uses this kind of technology to power its Face ID system for unlocking iPhones.

Researchers and privacy activists have spent years raising questions about the tech industry's use of face-scanning software, citing studies that found it worked unevenly across boundaries of race, gender or age.

US says oil, gas sales damage climate–but won't stop them

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—The Biden administration is planning to sell oil and gas leases on huge tracts of public land in the U.S. West, despite the Interior Department's conclusion that doing so could cost society billions of dollars in climate change impacts, according to government documents.

Administration officials announced last week that government regulators for the first time will analyze greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels extracted from government-owned lands across the U.S.

Burning those fuels accounts for about 20% of energy-related U.S. emissions, making them a prime target for climate activists who want to shut down leasing. President Joe Biden campaigned on pledges to end new drilling on public lands.

Hundreds of parcels of land that companies nominated for leasing were dropped from the sales because of concerns about wildlife being harmed by drilling rigs.

Yet officials with the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) said for now there's little they can do to prevent the broad climate change impacts from burning fuels extracted from the remaining parcels. That's in part because they can't discern the significance of emissions from government-owned fuel reserves versus other sources, officials wrote in newly released documents.

The determination applies to lease sales planned early next year in Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota and other states.

"BLM has limited decision authority to meaningfully or measurably prevent the cumulative climate change impacts that would result from global emissions," agency officials wrote in their Montana lease proposal.

Similar statements were included in documents released for sales in other states.

The leasing plans could change as the administration continues to analyze greenhouse gas emissions and their effects on people and the environment, administration officials said Tuesday.

The land bureau plans to defer leasing on almost 600 square miles (1550 square kilometers) in Wyoming, 213 square miles (550 square kilometers) in Colorado and 5 square miles (14 square kilometers) in Montana because of potential impacts to a struggling bird species, the greater sage grouse, and migrating pronghorn antelope.

Still, Wyoming has the most land up for new leasing, roughly 280 square miles (725 square kilometers).

Nation

Virginia's down-ballot: Democrats slightly trailing GOP

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP)—Candidates for Virginia's statewide down-ballot offices were engaged in tight races Tuesday night, with the Democratic candidates slightly trailing their GOP rivals in an echo of the unfolding governor's race. The races were too early to call.

In the lieutenant governor's race, voters are choosing between two women for a post that has been held by men for as long as the state has existed. Democrat Hala Ayala, a delegate from Woodbridge, is facing Republican Winsome Sears, who served in the legislature for a single term two decades ago and is attempting a political comeback. Either also would be the first woman of color to be elected to statewide office in Virginia.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Glenn Youngkin, center, speaks with running mates, attorney general candidate, Jason Miyares, left, and lieutenant governor candidate Winsome Sears, right, as they walk from a rally in Fredericksburg, Va., Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021. AP

The winner will succeed Democrat Justin Fairfax, who unsuccessfully ran for governor. The marquee election Tuesday is the gubernatorial race between former Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Republican challenger Glenn Youngkin.

For attorney general, Democrat Mark Herring is seeking a third term against Republican Jason Miyares, a delegate from Virginia Beach. Herring would be the first attorney general to win a third term since World War II.

At a Republican party attended by both Youngkin and Sears, supporters were upbeat, singing, waving signs and starting to dance. While the watch party had yet to erupt in a victory celebration, there was enough volume and movement to make the floor of the second-floor ballroom shake occasionally.

Democrats, on the other hand, cleared out quickly from a joint party with statewide candidates after McAuliffe made an appearance and simply stated that votes still remained to be counted without claiming victory or conceding defeat.

Polls closed at 7 p.m. Jurisdictions throughout the state reported that turnout Tuesday, in combination with early voting, was set to exceed turnout in 2017.

ELECTION BRIEFS

In Minneapolis, Frey's reelection bid goes to overtime

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey risked his bid for a second term by opposing a push to replace the city's police department. Voters agreed with Frey on the policing question, but they left the mayor guessing until Wednesday about his own reelection.

With voting nearly complete Tuesday, Frey had about 43% of the vote, well ahead of a pair of challengers running at about 20% each. But he needed more than 50% to win, and under the city's ranked-choice voting system, election officials were to begin sorting second- and potentially third-place choices on Wednesday to allocate them to candidates. Frey, a Democrat in a liberal-dominated city, faced sharp pressure from competitors on his left flank. Seventeen candidates had entered the race for mayor, many taking issue with the way Frey has handled changes to the police department since George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis officer last year. Frey positioned himself as a defender of keeping the police department—and was against the most liberal and vocal progressives who were seeking a symbolic victory in Floyd's city. Voters soundly defeated the proposal to replace the police department, with about 56% opposed.

Moderate candidates leading liberals in Seattle's top races

SEATTLE (AP)—Moderate candidates took significant leads in early Seattle election returns Tuesday following a months-long debate about how to address the city's problems of homelessness, policing and racial and economic injustice. In the mayor's race, Bruce Harrell, a former City Council president, was ahead of current City Council President M. Lorena González. Harrell had criticized his opponent for supporting the goal of cutting the Seattle Police Department's budget in half—a position she has since softened. And in the normally low-key contest for city attorney, which also drew national attention, Ann Davison, who pronounced herself a Republican in overwhelmingly Democratic Seattle in 2020, was leading police and jail abolitionist Nicole Thomas-Kennedy. Davison had said Thomas-Kennedy's policies would jeopardize public safety. While Harrell and Davison now hold strong leads, it could be days before there are clear winners. Liberal candidates in Seattle tend to gain ground in later vote counts. And in Washington's vote-by-mail system, ballots need only be post-marked by Election Day, not received.

Murphy, Ciattarelli in close fight for NJ governor's race

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy appeared to be in a close fight Tuesday with Republican challenger Jack Ciattarelli as he waged a re-election campaign centered on the progressive policies he's enacted in his first term. The Associated Press has not declared a winner in the race as votes were still being tallied. But returns showed Ciattarelli with a slight lead over the first-term incumbent on a night that imparted some bad omens for Democrats. Murphy has been leading in the polls, has a 1 million-voter registration advantage and had more cash in his campaign coffers than Ciattarelli in the final days of the race. But the Republican has far surpassed his predecessor four years ago in fundraising and has seen the gap in public polls move in his favor—if only by a few points.

Adams wins NYC mayor

NEW YORK (AP)—Former police captain Eric Adams easily won the race for New York mayor Tuesday, and Boston elected its first woman and Asian American to the city's top job as voters across the U.S. picked local leaders who were largely defined by their stances on police and crime. Adams, who will become the second Black mayor of the nation's largest city, first triumphed this summer in a crowded Democratic primary after he struck a nuanced stance on law enforcement issues. His message on crime and his experience as a police officer largely insulated him from attacks from his Republican opponent Curtis Sliwa, the founder of the Guardian Angels anti-crime patrol.

3 arrested in killing of 19-year-old woman following party

FAIRFIELD, Calif. (AP)—Three people, including an active duty Air Force member, have been arrested in the killing of a 19-year-old woman who was last seen leaving a Halloween party over the weekend in Northern California, police said.

Leilani Beauchamp, of Carmel, was seen leaving a party Saturday in Sacramento with two Air Force members who share a Fairfield home, Fairfield Police Lt. Jausiah Jacobsen said in a statement.

Police arrested Jessica Quintanilla, 21, on suspicion of murder charges, and her brother Marco Quintanilla and Juan Parra-Peralta on accessory to murder charges. Marco Quintanilla, 27, was also charged with violating his parole for a felony conviction for attempted murder, Jacobsen said.

Parra-Peralta was one of the men Beauchamp left the party with and lived in the Fairfield home where authorities say Beauchamp was killed, Jacobsen said.

Jacobsen said investigators determined Beauchamp was killed at the Fairfield home and her body was then abandoned in Salinas, where she was found Sunday after the three were arrested.

Parra-Peralta, 20, is an airman 1st class assigned to the 60th aerial port squadron at Travis Air Force Base, a base spokeswoman confirmed Tuesday.

It was not immediately known if any of the three suspects have retained attorneys who could speak on their behalf.

Police did not release the circumstances of Beauchamp's death or a motive in her killing.

Wu, Pureval mayoral wins mark milestone for Asian Americans

By TERRY TANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Asian Americans will serve as mayor in Boston and Cincinnati for the first time in both cities' histories, signaling political progress for a population that has struggled for almost two years with a rise in anti-Asian hate.

Wu

Pureval

Harrell

Boston voters tapped City Councilor Michelle Wu, 36, on Tuesday to serve in the city's top political office. In Cincinnati, Aftab Pureval, 39, easily defeated former Democratic Congressman David Mann.

"Tonight, we made history in Cincinnati," Pureval told a large gathering of supporters. "Cincinnati is a place where no matter what you look like, where you're from, or how much money you have, if you come here and work hard you can achieve your dreams."

When Pureval decided to leave his attorney job in 2015 to run for county clerk, it was some fellow Democrats who warned him against the idea. They felt he didn't have a "good ballot name" that would appeal to the predominantly white votership in Hamilton County, Ohio.

"When you see A-f-t-a-b on a yard sign, it doesn't occur to people that's a candidate not an insurance company," Pureval told The Associated Press earlier in the day. "When you're Asian, when you have an ethnic name, it's just harder. You've got to be creative, you've got to work harder, you've got to knock on more doors."

Pureval, the son of a Tibetan mother and Indian father, must have knocked on enough doors. He went on to score a major upset, becoming the first Democrat in over 100 years to be elected clerk.

Meanwhile, in Seattle, Bruce Harrell, who is second-generation Japanese American and Black, was ahead of current City Council President M. Lorena González. But, it could be days before there's a clear winner.

What's extraordinary is how spread out the three cities are. High-profile mayors who are Asian American and Pacific Islander, also known as AAPI, have typically been elected in places with historically large Asian populations like California and Hawaii. These candidacies signal just how large the AAPI electorate has multiplied with more feeling empowered to be a voice in the political fray.

The wider implications of his mayoral victory in a city with a small AAPI community mean a great deal to Pureval, who says his election "will show not just that AAPIs can run and win on the coasts or where there's large Asian populations, but that AAPIs can run and win anywhere."

World

Biden claims historic progress on climate efforts at summit

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP)—President Joe Biden argued Tuesday that historic progress on addressing global warming was achieved at the U.N. climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland, and expressed optimism for a similar outcome in Washington, where his legislative agenda has been stalled by intra-party disagreements.

Speaking in a press conference before boarding Air Force One to return to Washington, Biden highlighted new efforts to stop methane leaks, protect forests, invest in new technologies and spend money on clean energy infrastructure. But his efforts to meet U.S. commitments on climate change with a major domestic spending bill remained held up by legislative maneuvering.

"I can't think of any two days where more has been accomplished on climate than these two days," Biden said.

The president contrasted the U.S. posture of leading several major initiatives at the summit with those of Russia and China, who did not send their leaders to Glasgow. "The single most important thing that's got the attention of the world is climate, everywhere, from Iceland to Australia," Biden said, "and they've walked away."

Biden

"We showed up. We showed up," Biden said. "And by showing up we've had a profound impact, I think, on how the rest of the world is looking at the United States."

Biden has been determined to demonstrate to the world that the U.S. is back in the global effort against climate change, after his predecessor Donald Trump pulled the U.S.—the world's largest economy and second-biggest climate polluter—out of the landmark 2015 Paris climate accord.

Putting the U.S. on the path to halve its own output of coal, oil and natural gas pollution by 2050, as his climate legislation seeks to do, "demonstrates to the world the United States is not only back at the table, it hopefully can lead by the power of our example," Biden told delegates and observers on Monday.

"I know that hasn't always been the case," he added, in a reference to Trump.

But Biden has yet to deliver on his own commitments as coal-state U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin has again threatened Biden's domestic effort. For all the optimism Biden has been radiating at the summit in Scotland, persistent doubts lurk about whether he can deliver solely through executive actions as continued talks with Congress have steadily cut into his ambitions.

WORLD BRIEFS

11 killed in western Mexico state of Michoacan

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Police found the bullet-ridden bodies of five men and six boys in Mexico's western state of Michoacan, where several drug cartels have been waging bloody turf battles. State prosecutors said late Monday the 11 bodies were found near the town of Tarecuato, in the northern part of Michoacan near the border with the state of Jalisco. The dead ranged in age from 15 to 36. Prosecutors said the murders appear to have occurred late Monday. Investigators found a truck and three motorcycles at the scene, but did not immediately identify the dead men.

IS attack on Kabul hospital leaves 7 dead, 16 wounded

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Islamic State militants set off an explosion at the entrance to a military hospital in the Afghan capital on Tuesday, killing at least seven people, a senior Taliban official said. It was one of the most brazen IS attacks yet since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in the summer. Among those killed were three women, a child, and three Taliban guards, said Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. Five attackers were also killed, he said, adding that Taliban guards prevented them from getting into the hospital. He said the attack was over within 15 minutes. "No one was killed inside the hospital," the spokesman said. He said Taliban guards thwarted IS plans to target medical staff and patients in the 400-bed facility.

UNICEF: Gangs in Haiti are targeting schools and students

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—UNICEF warned Tuesday that schools in Haiti are increasingly at the mercy of gangs, with children becoming targets of robbery or ransom. The agency said that at least seven schools in the capital of Port-au-Prince have been forced to pay unidentified gangs in exchange for security in the past two months and that additional institutions have been threatened. "More and more fear at school means less and less learning," UNICEF said. "Gangs are rapidly turning temples of knowledge into theaters of violence."

Ethiopia orders emergency as Tigray forces threaten capital

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Ethiopia's government declared a national state of emergency Tuesday as rival Tigray forces threaten to move on the capital and the country's yearlong war escalates quickly. The United States said security has "deteriorated significantly," and it strongly warned its citizens to consider leaving. The emergency declaration by Ethiopia's Council of Ministers was the clearest sign of alarm yet from the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who a year ago this week allowed soldiers from a neighboring country to invade the Tigray region and pursue the Tigray forces alongside Ethiopian troops. Thousands of people have been killed since then. The Tigray forces and their allies pose a "grave and imminent danger" to the country's existence, the council's declaration said. "Everyone will be tested," the prime minister tweeted, saying the declaration was made to "shorten the period of tribulation and provide a time of solution."

Brazil weekly COVID-19 death toll at lowest since April 2020

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazil's seven-day total for deaths from COVID-19 has fallen to its lowest level since the start of the pandemic, according to online research website Our World in Data. In the seven days through Nov. 1 the nation recorded 2,188 deaths—a level unseen since April 2020—amid increasingly widespread vaccination. After a sluggish start, Latin America's largest nation has now fully vaccinated more than half its population. That share is even higher in some large cities, such as Sao Paulo, where virtually 100% of the adult population has had at least one shot and more than 90% are fully vaccinated. And a greater percentage of Brazilians have had at least one dose than Americans, according to the data site.

Australian girl, 4, rescued after 2 weeks; man arrested

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A 4-year-old girl was rescued safely and a man was arrested Wednesday more than two weeks after she was suspected to have been snatched from her family's camping tent on Australia's west coast, police said.

Police found Cleo Smith in a house in the coastal town of Carnarvon and a 36-year-old local man was taken into custody in an early morning raid, police said.

The girl was reunited with her mother Ellie Smith and stepfather Jake Gliddon soon after her rescue. "Our family is whole again," the mother said on social media.

"Cleo is alive and well," Western Australia Police Deputy Commissioner Col Blanch said.

"One of the officers picked her up into his arms and asked her: 'What's your name?' She said: 'My name is Cleo,'" Blanch added.

It is unclear whether a 1 million Australian dollar ($743,000) reward offered five days after her disappearance led police to her.

Cleo's family lives in Carnarvon, a community of 5,000 people, and forensic scientists had examined the exterior of their home for evidence that a predator had stalked Cleo and attempted to break in.

The girl disappeared with her sleeping bag on the second day of a family trip at Blowholes Campground, 75 kilometers (47 miles) north of Carnarvon on Oct. 16.

Cleo and her younger sister had been in a compartment of the tent separate from their parents. Police suspected she had been abducted because a zipper on a tent flap had been raised to a height that she could not have reached.

A MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase'

From the Family of:

†Merced A. Camacho

April 30, 1951 – October 5, 2021

We, the family of the late †Merced A. Camacho, wish to express our sincerest, deepest gratitude and heartfelt thank you to all of you who have shared in our sorrow and comforted us, through your valuable time, abounding love, thoughts, prayers, generous gifts and contributions. Your attendance at the daily mass, your presence at the funeral service and accompaniment to her final resting place have lifted our spirits.

Our most sincere appreciation to our techa: Juanita C. Deleon Guerrero, choirs: Saint Jude Thaddaeus and Neocatechumenal Communities, the Class of 1970, Nanan Kilisyano, Rev. Fr. Jason Granado, Rev. Fr. Jesse T. Reyes, Rev. Fr. Jayferson Baldelovar, OAR, and Rev. Fr. Albert Pellazar, OAR.

We appreciate the compassion you showed our family during this difficult time. You all have been a tremendous source of comfort and strength for all of us. We are truly blessed by the outpouring of love we have received. Your kindness will forever be etched in our hearts.

Thank You & Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Augustin T. Camacho, Children, & Family

Environment

Sprout & About: The CNMI's plant-loving community

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

LOVELY MARCHADESCH & SPENCER MARCHADESCH, talks about her Calatheas, his Snake Plants, and why they are their favorites
SUSAN PEREZ & ALLEN PEREZ, talks about her Variegated Alocasia, Pink Princess Philodendron, his Caladiums, and why they are their favorites
EMMA CABRERA, talks about her Anthuriums and why are they her favorites
FRIENDLY JOY PENA, talks about her String of Hearts and why it is her favorite
WENNIE SANTOS talks about her Alocasia Polly and why it is her favorite
ELSA CAMACHO KANESHI with her daughter BELLAMY, talks about her Succulents and why they are her favorite
MARIE ALDAN, talks about her Monstera Deliciosa and why it is her favorite
VINA HOFSCHNEIDER, talks about her Orchids and why they are her favorites
CLAUDINE CAMACHO, talks about her love of Cactus and why it is her favorite
NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES talks about her Aglaonemas and her plant story
DONNA RIVERA, talks about her Rubber Plant and why it is her favorite
JHAZA MIRANO, talks about her Pothos and why it is her favorite

An online platform, now with about 150 members (and growing), members of Sprout & About talk about plants and the joy of planting, as well as trade secrets and tips on where to find supplies and how best to grow plants on island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO.

One of the most enjoyable things about growing plants is talking about them with other plant lovers.

Yeah, that is so *meta*—so self-referential—but that was also the impetus behind the creation of the online Facebook group, "Sprout & About," according to founder Hanaivy Babauta, who created the group in November last year.

"There are a lot of places online where people can buy or sell plants, but there wasn't a specific group to just talk about plants," she said.

And much like parents who seem unable to stop from talking on and on about their children, the 150 or so members of "Sprout & About" also love to share and talk about their "babies"—*monstera deliciosa*, ficus black prince, anthuriums, *alocasia polly*, string of hearts—among so many other plants, from hibiscus to fancy succulents.

Also, with the pandemic and people having had to stay home due to health protocols, many in the community had to embrace interactions in digital platforms. Combine that with many who also discovered the joy in gardening and "Sprout & About" became the go-to page for plant parents in the Commonwealth.

"Sprout & About really was just an offshoot of both of these unique circumstances where there was a growing community of plant lovers and the desire to talk to one another about the plants we own, the plants we want, and the little lessons we can share with each other to keep our plants happy and alive," she said.

Babauta said the group has not had a formal gathering yet, but she expects it to happen once the pandemic starts to fade away, with possibly a community plant swap where everyone brings a plant and trades with others, or a workshop where members can have fun learning about new plants or planting techniques.

When asked why the name "Sprout & About," Babauta said, "It was intended to be a fun and safe place to talk about the plants we love. There is nothing cuter than a sprout so that was a necessary part of it, and it encouraged people to get out and about in this community, so it fit!"

Planting helps the community

"Talking about plants is one of the most enjoyable parts of raising plants!" Babauta said. "The little community of plant lovers that have joined each have an interest in learning more about plants of all kinds and a willingness to share what plants make them happy."

She believes her journey to being a "plant mom" is a lot like many of others in the community. "We all have a parent or grandparent who showed us the way, or someone who first gave us an insight into the beauty and joy of seeing a plant become beautiful in its growth. There's something in this that is unifying and really gratifying to share with one another."

As young a group Sprout & About is, many have already benefited from the "secrets" and tips that are being shared among members.

One of the exciting things that happen within the group that Babauta is most happy about is the sharing of knowledge about types of plants that can thrive here in the CNMI. "One member would post their *begonia frosty* or a variegated *monstera* and it would open new doors for another person who never considered that plant a possibility in their collection."

In the months since Sprout & About came together, Babauta said she has met up with a few members to trade or shop for plants.

Aside from trading with each other, the group also share tips on the best places to get new plants [and even pots!]—from online finds to *Sabalu* market runs, from shops on island [like Wasana and Kiara's Gardens] to literally going to the U.S. mainland to buy and bring home some new babies.

"While we don't sell on Sprout and About, members would post where they purchased their newest plant baby, or pot that they loved, and I think the community benefits from the additional information and marketing for the great and sometimes unknown sellers in the island," she said.

This way, they get to fulfill their share in helping grow not only plants but the local "plant" industry as well.

Hanaivy Babauta brings together plant lovers in the community with Sprout & About.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Within their community, Sprout & About members endorse their favorite plant sellers and share information on where to get supplies, which outlets have or soil in stock, and "honest feedback" on prices and quality.

"For a lot of us, plants and gardening have always played an important role in our upbringing. There's a tie that is developed with our parents and our grandparents who taught us the value of the environment and nature," Babauta said. "But today, being a plant parent is also about helping one another through the difficult time this last year. Businesses were struggling and people both wanted an outlet to devote their creativity toward, but also an opportunity to make a side-income in the plant industry."

Lucky in the CNMI

For anyone who want to become a "plant parent," Babauta's tip is to start with something easy.

"We are really lucky in the CNMI to have so many beautiful plants that thrive here naturally in the jungles and in our yards. Starting the plant journey with a plant that is common in the CNMI is a great way to get your feet wet," she said.

"Plants like pothos, philodendron, or aglaonema all grow wonderfully [on] the island and are a great starting point for caring for a plant that can make your house or office a more beautiful or relaxing place to spend your time," she added.

Babauta also advices all plant parents to simply trust the plant—something she learned through years of caring for and at times, freaking out—where she'd end up over-watering, disturbing, or baking her poor plants.

"One thing we must all learn to do is give our plants the opportunity to grow, and take a step back and trust that they will do their very best to make good with what we give them. They'll give us signals along the way and it's trusting in them and learning what they like that is part of the fun!"

Clearly, Babauta loves her plants, and this love radiates as she builds a community of plant-lovers like herself in the CNMI. "We should all take a step back from our busy lives and give time to the things that make us happy. It is important to be kind to one another, and that we can all share in a hobby that brings us joy in supporting one another."

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, but the second-best time is today," she added. "The same principle applies to houseplants, or really, any hobby or skill that is out there. Just get going and...be a kind person while you're doing it."

Help build the plant community in the CNMI and join Sprout & About via Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/772324743498738

Want your environmental initiatives featured? Email ivamaurin@gmail.com.

Life & Style

Kristen Stewart is engaged to Dylan Meyer: 'We're marrying'

Kristen Stewart is engaged to screenwriter Dylan Meyer. The 31-year-old actor announced the news The Howard Stern Show Tuesday.

"We're marrying, it's happening," Stewart said.

She also revealed that Meyer did the proposing.

"I wanted to be proposed to, so I think I very distinctly carved out what I wanted and she nailed it," Stewart said.

The two started dating in 2019 after they met at a mutual friends' party and bonded over having grown up in Los Angeles. Meyer a week ago on Instagram posted a photo of them laying on the floor in each other's arms with the caption "Awful proud of this hard-working princess."

Stewart is currently promoting the Princess Diana film "Spencer," which comes out in theaters on Friday. ***(AP)***

Stewart

American Music Awards get Cardi B to host the show this year

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cardi B has won five American Music Awards and performed on the telecast during her career so far. Next step: hosting the show.

The rapper behind such hits as "Bodak Yellow" and "Money" has been tapped to host the fan-voted awards show airing from Los Angeles on ABC on Nov. 21.

"We are immensely excited to have the dynamic Cardi B bring her infectious energy to the American Music Awards as a first-time host," said executive producer Jesse Collins in a statement Tuesday.

Cardi B performed "I Like It" at the AMAs in 2018 with J Balvin and Bad Bunny and also made history during her last AMAs appearance, becoming the first female rapper to win Favorite Hip-Hop Song twice.

Olivia Rodrigo, in the first year she's eligible, is the leading nominee this time with seven, including artist of the year and new artist of the year.

Five-time winner The Weeknd has six nominations, going up against Rodrigo in the artist of the year category along with BTS, Ariana Grande, Drake and Taylor Swift.

Reggaeton star Bad Bunny, R&B newcomer Giveon and Doja Cat each have five nominations each. In the new artist of the year category, Rodrigo joins Giveon, 24KGoldn, Masked Wolf and The Kid LAROI.

Swift, who currently holds the record for the most awarded artist in AMA history, could further extend her streak. She is nominated for three awards total, including favorite pop album for "evermore."

The AMAs added new categories this year, including favorite trending song, favorite gospel artist and favorite Latin duo or group.

Rapper Pop Smoke, who was killed in 2020, is nominated in three categories, including favorite hip-hop album and favorite hip-hop artist, and could win his first award posthumously.

Huma Abedin, loyal aide and betrayed wife, picks up the mic

NEW YORK (AP)—To a fascinated outside world, Huma Abedin was always the elegant woman standing at the back of the room, not speaking.

An ever-loyal aide to her boss of 25 years, Hillary Clinton, for whom she would "walk to the ends of the earth." (Spoiler alert: she still would.) And an ever-suffering wife to Anthony Weiner, who brought her endless public shame in cascades of scandal. (Spoiler alert: it was as bad as we thought.) Always there, and always silent.

Until now.

"I'm ready for this," she told The Associated Press in an interview last week, almost literally rolling up her sleeves in anticipation of the release of her new memoir, "Both/And: A Life in Many Worlds," out Tuesday. "I'm actually not nervous!" Abedin, 46, says she is finally telling her own story after years of reading other versions, and it's a relief: "I'm feeling really good."

In a jam-packed volume of just under 500 pages, Abedin, born in Michigan to Muslim academics from India and Pakistan and raised largely in Saudi Arabia, dissects and illustrates three relationships that have framed her life.

First: her family, especially her adored late father, who died before she started college and whose advice on being true to herself, scrawled in a handwritten note, begins the book.

Second is Clinton, whom Abedin has served her entire professional life, through the first lady years to the Senate, from the State Department to that turbulent presidential campaign in 2016, and still today. And third, the section to which all readers will quickly turn: her husband. In the book, she does not hold back. Nor did she in the interview.

"You know, he broke my heart," she said. "He ripped it out and stomped on it, over and over again. And I lived in so much shame for so long, so confused, so alone, not really knowing the way out, just trying to do what was best for my child."

The couple is not yet divorced, though lawyers are in the final stages, Abedin said – a full 10 years after Weiner's sexting scandal first upended her life. Abedin had married the New York congressman, a rising political star, a year earlier and was in the early, blissful stages of pregnancy when, she writes, her world came crashing down with an obscene photo that Weiner intended for a woman but mistakenly sent on his Twitter feed.

He resigned from Congress, but launched a mayoral bid two years later—a forgiving Abedin at his side—and seemed headed toward victory when the scandal surfaced anew, with more revelations of sexting under the can't-make-this-up moniker of "Carlos Danger."

And then scandal erupted a third time, when a lurid photo surfaced of Weiner lying next to the couple's son. Abedin announced a separation. But the couple continued to live in the same home, on different floors. Why, asked the tabloids, and others more politely, did she stay?

People will make their own judgments, she told the AP. "But when you're IN it, you're not thinking in terms of the grand plan. You're just trying to get through the day." Weiner, she says, was a hands-on dad who did pickups and made playdates. And their son needed him.

Of course, that same question—why did she stay?—was lobbed at Hillary Clinton during the impeachment scandal involving her husband and Monica Lewinsky. Abedin thinks the world missed the obvious explanation: "She did it because she believed it was the right thing to do for herself and her family—and for her country."

Throughout, Abedin's rock-solid allegiance to Hillary Clinton is paramount. "You've stumped me," she says when asked if the two ever had a real dispute.

Unless you include certain fashion choices. Like a puffy, unflattering black coat Clinton seemed to favor, and Abedin so disliked, she even tried to hide it from her. But Clinton fished it out and wore it to the inauguration of George W. Bush.

There are other humorous moments in the book—like the time the first lady overslept, and an over-eager Abedin, tasked with getting her started on her day, actually walked into the pitch-black presidential bedroom and shook her boss awake, startling the sleeping president as well.

There's also the time Abedin, amid a bad public moment with Weiner, was approached by a woman in a store, pointing to a newspaper photo. She braced as always for a hateful remark, and was delighted to realize the woman simply thought she was Amal Clooney.

Abedin got so used to bracing for bad news, she initially thought of calling her book "Bracing." But nothing could have prepared her for the moment, late in the 2016 campaign, when FBI director James Comey (briefly) reopened the investigation into Clinton's emails because of Abedin emails found on Weiner's laptop through his sexting investigation.

"'If she loses this election, it will be because of you and me,'" a livid Abedin told Weiner.

When Clinton did lose, it was "a great trauma that took me a very long time to process," she says now. "I did feel responsible." Finally, though, she came to believe the burden should rest on Comey. She says Clinton herself never blamed her.

Marriage sours as details spill out for all to see

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 16 years has been airing our dirty laundry to anyone who will listen, including my 35-year-old son. We live in a small town and have lots of ties here. People who were once quick to come up and say hi no longer do so. In fact, most are avoiding me by heading in the opposite direction in the stores or in parking lots.

I have asked my husband to keep our business between us and not discuss our personal lives with others, but he continues to do it anyway. His mother is the go-to for him and she has now canceled our Saturday outings. I'm so disgusted by all of this that I want to end the marriage.

The home we live in is mine—I paid in full for it before I met him, and it is all I have. I have asked him to leave, but he refuses, saying he's going to "take me for everything and more." Should I hire an attorney at the risk of possibly making things worse, or wait until things calm down?

AFRAID AND CONFUSED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR AFRAID: Do not wait for things to "calm down." In light of what your husband has threatened, it is extremely important that you start talking to lawyers about what's going on and how to protect yourself. Talk to several because you can gain a wider perspective. While you may not be able to salvage your reputation in that community because of what your husband has been spreading, you will be able to prevent him from fleecing you. Please accept my sympathy.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a good friend who wants to help everyone. She has been in a relationship with a man for 25 years. She does not get along with his 40-something-year-old son, who lives with and mooches off his dad. He also has his 8-year-old grandson living there. Because her boyfriend has always promised marriage, she hangs on.

The son is a drug addict and not supposed to be around the grandson, but everyone enables everyone. My friend finally moved out a few years ago, but she is back again. The boyfriend is now battling cancer and has her there to help the grandson with online learning and to take care of all three of them—cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping, rides to doctors and cooking.

Her boyfriend is retired now and has a lot of money, and his house is paid off. She's 63 and thinks if he dies, she'll get a portion of his estate, but he won't put anything in writing. I keep telling her she's a fool and he won't change. Is she wasting the golden years of her life?

INVOLVED FRIEND IN MINNESOTA

DEAR INVOLVED: Yup! The "boyfriend" has her exactly where he wants her—as a source of free labor and with no guarantee about her future. If it is security she's hoping for, I regretfully agree that she's wasting the golden years of her life.

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

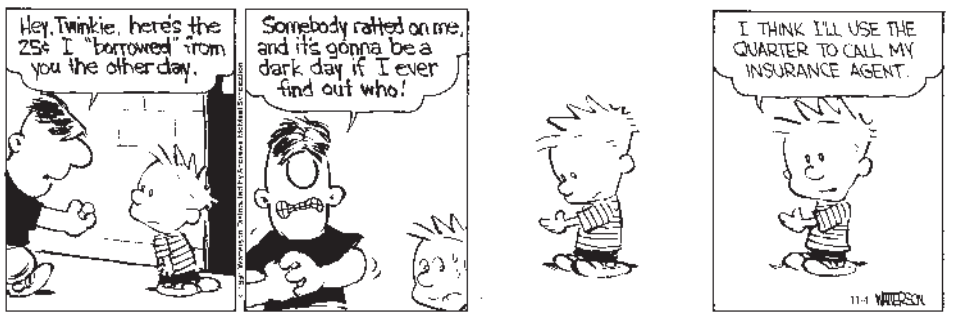
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

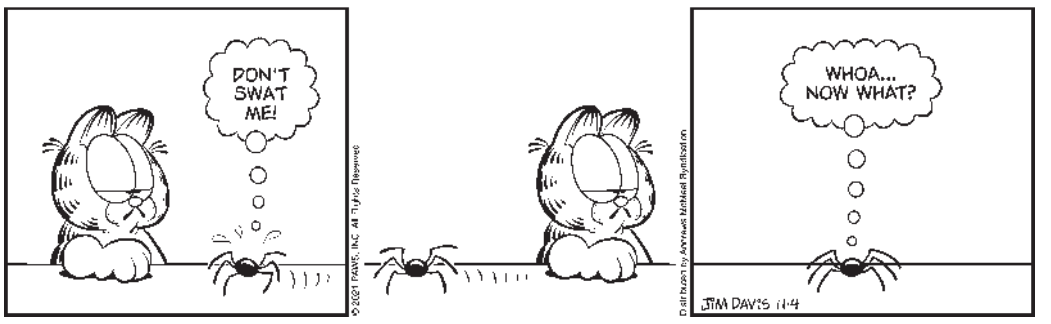
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


Hey, Twinkie, here's the 25¢ I "borrowed" from you the other day.
Somebody ratted on me, and it's gonna be a dark day if I ever find out who!
I THINK I'LL USE THE QUARTER TO CALL MY INSURANCE AGENT.
11-4 WATTERSON

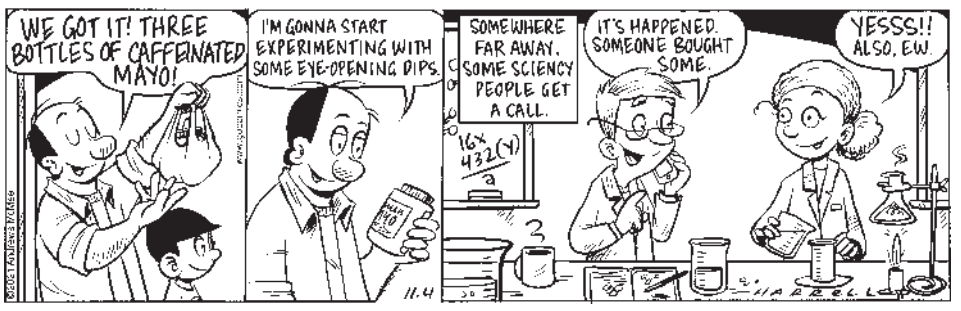
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WE GOT IT! THREE BOTTLES OF CAFFEINATED MAYO!
I'M GONNA START EXPERIMENTING WITH SOME EYE-OPENING DIPS.
SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY, SOME SCIENCY PEOPLE GET A CALL.
IT'S HAPPENED. SOMEONE BOUGHT SOME.
YESSS!! ALSO, EW.
11.4

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Unrepaired
5 Texter's "Wow!"
8 Infamous emperor
12 United nations
13 Cartoon frame
14 Always
15 Test version
16 LAX info
17 Openings
18 Kigali's country
20 Dance move
22 "Persevere!"
26 Car sticker
29 Sinbad's bird
30 Genetic letters
31 Russian river
32 Furry foot
33 Pinot —
34 Perch
35 Chest muscle
36 Shades
37 "Persevere!"
40 Tennis great Steffi
41 Artery inserts
45 Drifting ice
47 Sch. founded by Jefferson
49 Statutes
50 Rowboat needs
51 — culpa
52 Reclined
53 Lads
54 Listending shorthand
55 Pismires

DOWN

1 Shortened wd.
2 Passel
3 Speck
4 Tabloid topic
5 Whale's home
6 Bumped into
7 Scottish city
8 Israeli desert
9 1996 Madonna role
10 Agt.
11 Hosp. areas
19 100 cts.
21 Spasm
23 "Fast Car" singer Chapman
24 Military group
25 Golf standards
26 Twilight time
27 Buffalo's lake
28 "Jeopardy!" pick
32 Dior product
33 TV chef Lawson
35 Sch. org
36 Stick with a kick
38 Fourth estate
39 Sir — Newton
42 Round bread of India
43 Ninny
44 Taxpayer IDs
45 Watch chain
46 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
48 Dog doc

Solution time: 24 mins.

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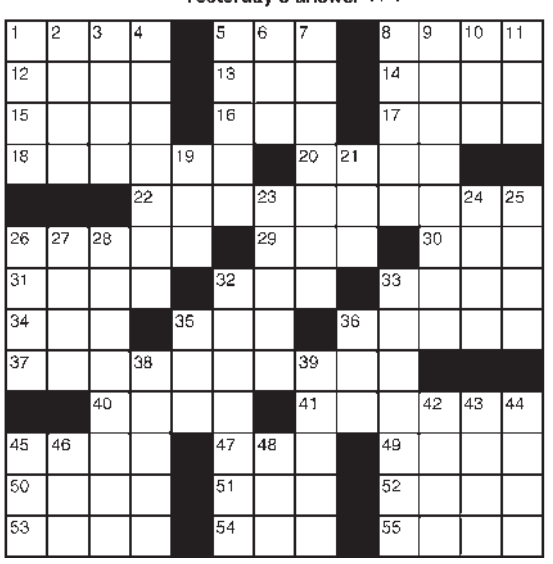
Yesterday's answer 11-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kiana Madeira, 29; Sean Combs, 52; Matthew McConaughey, 52; Ralph Macchio, 60.

Happy Birthday: Unpack emotional baggage, and tidy up loose ends. Make your intentions clear, and follow through with plans and promises. Look for a unique way to let go of the past while filling the void with new aspirations. Take responsibility for your shortcomings, and be proud in your achievements. Acquiring balance and maintaining what you've built will encourage stability and success. Your numbers are 3, 12, 20, 29, 32, 35, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Set your sights on what you can do to better yourself. Don't be afraid to try something new or sign up for something that interests you. Expand your horizons, and you'll discover something or someone who has an impact on your life. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You'll face confusion if you let someone dictate what you can do. Trust in your instincts, follow your heart and use your charm to outmaneuver anyone who stands in your way. A positive attitude will spawn good results. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look at what you can do to get ahead, and prepare to take on a challenge. Don't limit what you can do because of someone's negativity. Check every angle, and you'll come up with a plan that will help you excel. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Find a unique way to pass the hours. Participate in something interesting, and you'll gain perspective regarding how to spend your time. Your attitude and what you can do to contribute to a healthy lifestyle will push you in a positive direction. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Nothing will be as it appears. Slow down, verify information and question anyone who is being pushy or manipulative. Look for better alternatives before you make a move that is just satisfactory. Do your best, and you'll reap the rewards. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Busy yourself with problems you need to resolve. Dealing with other people's affairs may be burdensome but beneficial. Your dedication, response and persistence will bring about the changes that make your life easier and help someone in need. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Moderation will help you avoid anxiety and frustration. Altering how you structure your spending or manage your investments or accounts will ease stress and encourage you to make further lifestyle changes. A social event will encourage exciting conversations and friendships. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take stock and eliminate what you don't need. Minimizing your overhead, clutter and emotional weight will liberate and clear the passage for what's to come. Consider what makes you happy, and include the people and pastimes that lift your spirits. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Consider who you are dealing with before sharing information. Complications will surface if you aren't specific or you take on something that is emotionally unsound. Stick to truth, and question anything that sounds too good to be true. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Discipline and fair play are mandatory if you expect to reach your goal. Abide by the rules, set high standards and don't deviate from a plan if it might cost you financially. Avoid places that present a health risk. Work from home. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Emotional matters will set you off and send you down an unpredictable path. Take a step back and rethink your position before you share your thoughts. You are better off understating a situation than exaggerating if you want to resolve issues. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Count your blessings. It's up to you to bring about the changes that will give you a financial edge and connect you to people who share your sentiments and general direction. Don't fight a battle single-handedly. Join forces. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dependable, charismatic and unique. You are flexible and idealistic.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7			9		2			1
	9	8		3		4	6	
	4						9	
6			5		9			4
	1						7	
5			1		4			3
	2						5	
	5	3		8		9	1	
9			6		3			8

Difficulty Level ★ 10/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	9	3	6	7	2	4	1	8
1	8	7	3	4	9	6	5	2
2	6	4	5	1	8	7	3	9
8	3	1	4	5	7	2	9	6
9	5	6	8	2	1	3	4	7
4	7	2	9	3	6	5	8	1
3	1	8	2	6	4	9	7	5
6	4	9	7	8	5	1	2	3
7	2	5	1	9	3	8	6	4

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WORDS WITH THE LETTERS N-E-T Solution: 11 letters

G	B	A	L	K	A	N	E	T	E	N	O	R	A	B
T	E	A	F	I	S	H	N	E	T	E	N	N	O	B
K	E	N	S	P	E	L	J	E	N	N	E	T	A	T
R	P	N	E	S	N	K	N	A	I	T	E	N	E	V
O	E	E	I	T	I	G	U	T	T	N	C	N	T	S
W	N	E	T	T	I	N	G	S	A	J	A	N	E	T
T	E	N	N	E	R	C	E	T	T	R	B	N	N	E
E	T	I	B	T	R	A	S	T	T	E	I	S	R	N
N	R	N	A	E	R	A	M	N	S	N	N	T	E	A
T	A	E	H	N	C	I	I	U	E	M	E	E	T	C
E	T	T	B	R	U	N	E	T	T	E	T	N	N	R
L	E	Y	M	A	G	N	E	T	I	C	S	E	I	A
N	D	R	A	G	N	E	T	K	I	N	E	T	I	C
E	H	A	I	R	N	E	T	J	A	C	O	N	E	T
T	C	L	A	R	I	N	E	T	E	N	I	T	A	S

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Alkanet, Anett, Baronet, Bassinets, Beignet, Bonnet, Brunette, Cabinets, Carcanets, Castanet, Clarinet, Dragnet, Fishnet, Garnet, Genetics, Hairnet, Internet, Intranet, Jaconet, Janet, Jennet, Kinetic, Magnetic, Martinet, Nether, Netsuke, Nettings, Network, Nineteen, Ninety, Penetrate, Rennet, Satinet, Telnet, Tenets, Venetian

Yesterday's Answer: Fairy Tale

The NEW **Treasury 43** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Balanced Heat hold off late Mavericks rally, win 125-110

DALLAS (AP)—Four Miami Heat players had 22 or more points for the first time in franchise history to hold off a late Dallas rally and beat the Mavericks 125-110 on Tuesday night for their fifth straight win.

Tyler Herro scored 25 points off the bench, 15 alone in the second quarter when the Heat outscored the Mavericks 46-32 to take a 70-62 halftime lead. Jimmy Butler added 23 points, Kyle Lowry had 22 and Bam Adebayo scored 22 and grabbed 13 rebounds.

Miami's top scorers did so from all over the court. Butler sank 15 of 17 free throws while Lowry hit six of nine 3-pointers. The Heat shot 52% behind the arc.

"You want to be able to maximize your offense in all the different ways in your menu without feeling like you're taking turns," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Luka Doncic scored a season-high 33 points for the Mavericks, who lost for the first time in four home games.

Miami is off to its first 6-1 start since the 2012-13 season, when it won the second of its three NBA championships.

"The Heat, I would consider them the best team in the league right now," Dallas coach Jason Kidd said.

Dallas' Jalen Brunson had a season-high 25 points in his first start of the season, necessitated by injuries that have sidelined big men Kristaps Porzingis and Maxi Kleber.

Porzingis missed his fourth straight game with lower back tightness. Kleber, who started Sunday's win over Sacramento in Porzingis' place, left that game late in the first period and will be out 7-10 days with a left oblique strain.

The Mavericks got out to a 20-9 lead seven minutes into the game, hitting four of their first six 3-pointers before the Heat pushed back, led by Herro's second-quarter scoring.

Miami led 97-81 with 2:12 to play in the third quarter when Dallas began its run. The Mavericks pulled within 101-95 two minutes into the fourth period before the Heat held them off down the stretch.

Spoelstra said Herro made his largest improvements over the summer.

"People are noticing now from a lot of work that happened behind the scenes," Spoelstra said.

Veteran Mavericks guard Trey Burke, who is unvaccinated, missed the COVID-19 testing window for the second time in four games and was unavailable, forfeiting another game check. Kidd said Burke will travel with the team for Wednesday night's game at San Antonio.

"For us as the Mavs, we can only talk (to him) about it," Kidd said. "He has the responsibility to show up on time."

Herro has 157 points off the bench in the season's first seven games. That's more than any player has scored coming off the bench since 1975, when the NBA began charting stats by whether a player started a game or was a reserve. The previous mark through a team's first seven games was 156 by Jason Terry (2007-08) and Michael Brooks (1980-81).

Miami Heat guard Tyler Herro (14) celebrates a 3-point shot during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021, in Dallas. AP

Bucks 117, Pistons 89

In Detroit, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points, nine assists and eight rebounds in Milwaukee's rout of Detroit.

The Bucks, who ended a three-game losing streak, also got 16 points from Pat Connaughton and reserve Jordan Nwora.

Jerami Grant led the Pistons (1-6) with 21 points, but Trey Lyles was the only other player to reach double figures with 13.

Cade Cunningham, the No. 1 pick in this summer's draft, went 2 for 14 in his second NBA game, including 0 of 9 from behind the 3-point line. He is shooting 13.6% (3 of 22) thus far and has missed all 14 3-point attempts.

Lakers 119, Rockets 117

In Los Angeles, LeBron James scored 14 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter, Russell Westbrook added 27 points and Los Angeles swept back-to-back games against Houston.

Anthony Davis had 27 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who have won three straight and five of six after an 0-2 start to their reboot season. Carmelo Anthony also provided yet another impressive performance off the bench, hitting three 3-pointers while scoring 15 points.

Rookie Jalen Green scored 24 points for Houston, but the second overall pick was scoreless in the fourth until he hit back-to-back 3-pointers in the final minute. Christian Wood had 26 points and 16 rebounds for the Rockets, who have lost five straight and six of seven to begin this rebuilding season.

Jazz 119, Kings 113

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored a season-high 36 points and Mike Conley add a season-best 30 points, lifting Utah over Sacramento.

Conley scored 13, including three 3s, in the fourth quarter, and Rudy Gobert made six clutch free throws down the stretch to move Utah to 7-1 on the season. Gobert had 12 points, 20 rebounds and four blocked shots.

The Kings kept hanging around and cut the lead to 115-113 on Harrison Barnes's 3-pointer with 23 seconds remaining.

Mitchell made two free throws while Buddy Hield jawed with him. Gobert forced Barnes into a tough shot on a drive and then blocked Davion Mitchell's shot on the next possession to seal the win, Utah's sixth straight over the Kings.

Barnes led the Kings with 23 points and Hield had 19. Seven Sacramento players scored in double figures.

Suns 112, Pelicans 100

In Phoenix, Mikal Bridges scored 22 points, Chris Paul added 14 points and 18 assists and Phoenix rallied to beat New Orleans.

Paul is now third in NBA history with 10,346 career assists, passing both Mark Jackson and Steve Nash. The 36-year-old shook off a slow start with a vintage performance in the second half, when he scored all of his points and dished 10 assists.

The Suns improved to 3-3 this season. The Pelicans fell to 1-7.

Little-used reserve Frank Kaminsky added 17 points and four steals, and JaVale McGee had 18 points and five rebounds. The two big men were particularly good as the Suns regained control of the game in the second half.

Jonas Valanciunas led the Pelicans with 16 points and eight rebounds before the break. He finished with a team-high 23 points.

Injuries cause reigning champion Bucks to struggle early

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks haven't been quite themselves as they've opened their NBA title defense.

Two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo has played in each of the Bucks' first seven games, but many of his usual running mates have been missing. The impact of their absences was evident as the Bucks (3-4) dropped below .500 with a three-game homestand that included losses to Minnesota, San Antonio and Utah.

"We are banged up, we're injured, but you've got to go out and compete," coach Mike Budenholzer said after a 107-95 loss to the Jazz on Sunday. "Nobody feels sorry for you. Nobody's going to worry about you. We've got to keep playing, keep competing, keep growing and keep developing and hopefully get some of our guys back healthy."

Jrue Holiday has played in just two games and is dealing with a sprained left ankle. Brook Lopez hasn't played since a season-opening victory over the Brooklyn Nets due to a sore back. Donte DiVincenzo still hasn't made his season debut as he continues his recovery after tearing a ligament in his left ankle in a first-round playoff series.

The Bucks also were missing two-time All-Star Khris Middleton on Sunday because of an illness unrelated to COVID-19. Reserve forward Rodney Hood left the game with a bruised right hand. Budenholzer said afterward that Holiday was trending in a good direction but he couldn't say whether the veteran guard would play Tuesday at Detroit.

Holiday was a first-team selection on the NBA All-Defensive Team last season. Lopez was a second-team selection in 2020. Without them on the floor, the Bucks' defense hasn't been nearly as stifling as usual.

"I know how good of a defender Jrue is," teammate Grayson Allen said after the Jazz game. "As a guard, though, I kind of feel, or at least miss, Brook's presence most. Especially with him usually kind of holding down that back line underneath the basket, cleaning up any mistakes. A lot of the stuff on the pick-and-roll, he can drop back and defend, too. He takes a lot of pressure off of us guards. He's definitely missed." Defense hasn't been the only issue. The Bucks have shot just 27.5% (36 of 131) from 3-point range during this three-game skid.

Although Milwaukee kept most of its core together after winning its first title since 1971, many of the other players on the roster are new.

The Bucks brought back George Hill, who last played for Milwaukee from 2018-20. They added Hood, Allen and forward Semi Ojeleye. They're expecting 2020 second-round draft pick Jordan Nwora to have a bigger role.

Those changes could cause Milwaukee to need time to develop chemistry, particularly since some of the newcomers are playing more minutes than expected because of injuries elsewhere on the roster.

It's worth noting that while the Bucks posted the NBA's best regular-season record in 2018-19 and 2019-20, last year's squad had an up-and-down regular season and was just 16-13 after a five-game skid in February.

Perhaps this year's team also will need time to reach peak form.

"Nobody's going to feel sorry for us," said forward Bobby Portis, who played in only his second game Sunday after dealing with a strained left hamstring. "We're the defending champions. Everyone's going to try and give us their best shot."

BRAVES

From Page 20

About 700 miles away at suburban Truist Park, thousands of fans poured into the Braves' home to holler.

A mere afterthought in the summer heat among the land of the Giants, White Sox and Dodgers, but magnificent in the Fall Classic.

"This is the toughest team I've ever been a part of," said shortstop Dansby Swanson, who also homered.

Soler tapped his heart twice before beginning his home run trot after connecting off rookie Luis Garcia in the third inning, sending the ball flying completely out of Minute Maid Park and clinching the Series MVP award.

By the end, nothing could stop them. Not a broken leg sustained by starter Charlie Morton in the World Series opener. Not a big blown lead in Game 5.

Steadied by the 66-year-old Snitker, an organization man for four decades, the underdog Braves won the franchise's fourth title.

"They never gave up on themselves," he said on a postgame victory platform. "We lost a lot of pieces over the course of the summer and it was just the next man up."

Consider it a tribute to the greatest Braves player of them all, Mr. Hank Aaron. The Hall of Fame slugger died Jan. 22 at 86, still pulling for his old team, and his legacy was stamped all over this Series.

"Nobody ever wanted to let Hank down," Snitker said. "That's just the way it was, we didn't want to let him down. He charged us with a responsibility to make these guys better and we weren't going to let him down."

And note the Braves outhomered the top-scoring team in the majors by 11-2.

For 72-year-old Houston manager Dusty Baker, a disappointment. But for many fans rooting against the Astros in the wake of their 2017 sign-stealing scandal, some satisfaction.

"Yeah, it's tough, but you know something? You've got to keep on trucking, and that gives you even more incentive next year," Baker said.

"It's tough to take now, but this too shall pass. I mean, it really hurts, but it's over," he added.

Major credit for Atlanta's title goes to Anthopoulos. Undaunted by Acuña's knee injury, he pulled off a flurry of July trades that brought the Fab Four to an entirely retooled outfield—NL Championship Series MVP Eddie Rosario, Adam Duvall, Joc Pederson and Soler.

"Thanks to God for the opportunity to be on this team," Soler said through a translator.

But even in the Analytics Era, guided by a GM fully versed in new-age ways, the path these Braves took wouldn't add up in any computer. Especially with how things looked in midseason.

"At that time, we were searching," third baseman Austin Riley said before Game 6. "I think there's no question about that."

Minus Acuña, Atlanta wasn't over .500 for a single day until the first week in August. The Braves finished 88-73 for the 12th-best record in the majors and fewest victories among playoff teams; their win total was the lowest for a World Series champion since St. Louis' 83 in 2006.

Plus, some agonizing history in Atlanta, a city where no team had won a title in the four major pro sports besides 1995.

The Braves couldn't convert a 3-1 series advantage over the Dodgers in the NLCS last year. The Hawks fell short in the Eastern Conference finals last season. And then there was the big one, the Falcons blowing a 28-3 lead to the Patriots in the Super Bowl.

But these Braves, not this time.

"Boy, we're in November right now and we've been doing this since February. We've had so many ups and downs this year. For us to be world champions, that is awesome to hear," Freeman said.

Favored in spring training to win their fourth straight NL East title, the Braves lost Acuña to a torn knee in July. Earlier, 2020 Triple Crown contender Marcell Ozuna was injured and later placed on leave while Major League Baseball investigated him under its domestic violence policy. Projected ace Mike Soroka never made it back from an Achilles injury.

Going into the playoffs, their bullpen was a crazy patchwork.

They had a guy who made his big league debut in October, a lefty who was pitching in 2019 for the Texas AirHogs in a now-defunct independent league and a righty who was stacking boxes at an appliance warehouse a decade ago. Toss in a rookie who was off the roster a week ago as he watched Game 1 at a hotel in suburban Atlanta.

For sure, plenty of fans around the country were rooting hard against Jose Altuve and the Houston crew. Many continue to heckle them as the "Cheatin' Astros" for an illegal sign-stealing scheme on the way to their 2017 title, and those feelings might last forever.

Certainly a lot of people were cheering for Baker. A World Series winner as a player and a highly respected figure on and off the field, he wasn't able to check the final box on his resume as a championship skipper.

The Braves' crowns have been spread out over more than a century.

The 1995 Atlanta champs featured five future Hall of Famers—rookie Chipper Jones, aces Tom Glavine, Greg Maddux and John Smoltz, and manager Bobby Cox. Those rings were the lone pieces of hardware that resulted from 14 straight division titles.

The 1957 Milwaukee Braves were led by Aaron in his only NL MVP season. His 44 was painted in large numbers on the outfield grass at Truist Park, and Baker and Snitker often mentioned how much he'd meant to them.

There were the 1914 Boston Braves, too, dubbed the "Miracle Braves" back in the day. In last place on the Fourth of July, they surged to win the pennant, then upset a heavily favored team—the Philadelphia A's—to earn their nickname.

Sound familiar?

A MOST

From Page 20

Hall of Fame general manager (John Schuerholz), guided by a Hall of Fame manager (Cox), led on the mound by three Hall of Fame pitchers (Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine and John Smoltz), with a lineup that included yet another Hall of Famer (Chipper Jones) and at least two other guys who can make a pretty good case for Cooperstown (Fred McGriff and Andruw Jones) contributed just one title to the franchise resume.

Now, finally, they've got some company.

Shaking off the disappointment of Game 5, when they squandered a 4-0 lead and a chance to celebrate in front of their home fans, these Braves romped past the Houston Astros 7-0 to finish off the World Series four games to two.

It didn't matter that they won just 88 games during the regular season, fewer than every other playoff team and even two teams that didn't make the postseason.

It didn't matter that they were mired in mediocrity much of the season, finally climbing above .500 for the first time on Aug. 6 in their 111th game.

It didn't matter that they had to go down to the final week to finally clinch first place in a division derisively known as the NL Least.

"You boys are going to be world champions the rest of your lives," Snitker told his team in the champagne-soaked visiting clubhouse, holding up the trophy that every team has their sights set on from the first day of spring training.

All that bubbly had to feel cleansing in a way, exorcising the demons of not only a team, but an entire city.

The Braves are the only Atlanta team to win a championship in the four major American sports, which first arrived in the Deep South in 1966.

That was the year the Braves moved in from Milwaukee and the Falcons took flight as an NFL expansion team. The NBA's Hawks would come from St. Louis two years later, followed by the NHL's Flames in 1972.

Those franchises provided a huge boost to Atlanta's fragile self-image, stamping a growing city just emerging from the civil right movement as truly major league. But, as the losses piled up and occasional shots at glory crashed in inevitable defeat, all four teams would come to be viewed as more trouble than they were worth.

Atlanta, which liked to market itself as the "City Too Busy To Hate," earned another embarrassing moniker.

Loserville, U.S.A.

The Flames didn't stick around very long, moving to Calgary in 1980 after whiffing on all six of their playoff appearances. Of course, they would go on to win a Stanley Cup title in their new home.

The NHL sent Atlanta another team, the Thrashers, but they left, too, bolting for Winnipeg after just 11 seasons. They never even won a playoff game, much less a series.

While the Braves had all those close-but-no-cigar moments in the 1990s, the Hawks and Falcons have barely even sniffed at a championship.

Atlanta's NFL team did reach the Super Bowl in 2017, only to suffer what is surely the most infamous defeat in the game's history.

After carrying a 28-3 lead on Tom Brady and the New England Patriots deep into the third quarter, the Falcons frittered it away and lost in overtime.

Braves shortstop Dansby Swanson, who grew up in the suburbs of Atlanta, attended that Super Bowl to cheer on his hometown team.

It wasn't lost on him that the Braves clinched their championship in Houston, of all places.

Yep, the same city where the Falcons lost the Super Bowl.

"God bless my soul, but I was here when the Falcons got beat in the Super Bowl. I was at the game in Houston," Swanson said on Fox's postgame show. "So we've kind of come full circle, right? It felt like destiny a little bit, being back here and winning."

Yep, the circle is complete.

This Atlanta team is headed home from Houston with a championship.

A championship that none of us saw coming.

WORLD

From Page 20

of seconds," Correa told The Associated Press. "So it's obviously tough to process."

Atlanta's 7-0 victory over the Astros to win the World Series on Tuesday night could mark the end of an era in Houston.

After losing Gerrit Cole and George Springer in free agency the last two years, Houston now faces the distinct possibility that Correa will soon be gone, too.

An emotional Correa spoke to his teammates after the game and later reflected on his many years with the Astros.

"I did everything in my power to make this team a better club, this organization, to keep (moving) in the right way, and I'm proud of my time here," he said.

The star shortstop, who has been with the franchise since he was selected with the first overall draft pick in 2012, is a free agent and there's concern the Astros won't be able to keep him.

"I hope it's not, that it's not over yet," manager Dusty Baker said. "He's a professional. He's a real leader. ... He doesn't give an alibi or any excuses. He just comes out and plays the game the way he's supposed to play it."

Correa had a great season, hitting a career-high 26 homers with 92 RBIs. But perhaps as much as his play, his leadership and swagger has been invaluable to this team since he made his debut and won the AL Rookie of the Year award in 2015.

Game 6 of the Series marked his 79th postseason appearance since helping the Astros reach the playoffs for the first time since 2005 in his rookie season.

"I can tell how our guys gravitate towards him," Baker said. "I can tell even how the opposition always shows respect for him, especially when they're around second base. ... He just plays the game the way it should be played."

Justin Verlander, who pitched just one game in the last two seasons because of injuries, is also a free agent, as is veteran starter Zack Greinke.

After the game, 73-year-old Brent Strom, the team's pitching coach since 2014, announced he won't return next season.

Houston reached the World Series in three of the last five years and advanced to the ALCS in each of the last five seasons. The Astros won the championship in 2017, a crown tainted by the team's sign-stealing scandal, before losing to the Washington Nationals in seven games in 2019.

Houston's rise to the cream of baseball's crop came after losing more than 100 games in three straight seasons from 2011-13.

The Astros made the trip to the World Series this year after coming one game shy of advancing to the Fall Classic last season. Baker has led the team the last two years after being hired following A.J. Hinch's dismissal after he was suspended for a year for his role in the cheating scheme.

Like Correa, Baker's future with the club is also uncertain with his contract ending and no new deal in place.

After such an impressive run, the question becomes if the Astros can sustain this success or if their window for being a perennial contender is closing. While losing Correa would certainly be a huge blow, the Astros have plenty of stars who will be back next year, led by Jose Altuve, Alex Bregman and Yordan Alvarez.

"The guys that are going to hit free agency this year, we really hope that all of them come back because they're going to make us a better team," Altuve said. "But we also have really good young players like Yordan, (Kyle) Tucker, that... they're going to be really good superstars for a long time. So it will be like a good mix."

Jim Crane, who has owned the team since 2011, scoffed at the notion that Houston's run among the American League's elite could be ending when it was mentioned earlier in the playoffs.

"People always refer to the window, (say) the window may be closing," he said. "Listen, when I'm here, the window's always going to be open."

After he finished discussing Houston's window to win, the billionaire businessman made sure to keep the door on Correa's future in the city propped open.

"I think we have a chance," Crane said. "I never count anything out."

TONY

From Page 19

where the runners run their 5Ks whether it's Beach Road on Saipan or right outside the Buffalo Bills stadium. We run together in spirit. The love of runners for Saipan is everywhere. Thank you so much for those that participated in our very first virtual 5K."

The Virtual 5K Underground Series 21.9 was an 11th hour replacement for the 5K Dash & Splash that was supposed to be held last Saturday at the East Bay of Lao Lao Bay. It was postponed due to the spike in COVID-19 cases on Saipan. The 5K Dash & Splash has now been moved to Nov. 13.

For more information on Run Saipan's 5K Dash & Splash, contact Run Saipan at 670 287-0891 or email runsaipan@gmail.com. To register, go to https://bit.ly/3iTxL5i.

FIFA, AFC reps observe NMIFA Congress

Representatives from the Fédération Internationale de Football Association observed the proceedings of the 11th Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Ordinary Congress held last Friday at the NMSA Conference Room. It's the first time in the history of the NMIFA that FIFA representatives observed the congress.

Joining the congress virtually were FIFA Head of MA Governance Rolf Tanner and FIFA Development Officer Lavin Vignesh. As in previous years, representatives from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in Kuala Lumpur also observed the congress. Yosuke Mihara, AFC Head for East Asia Unit, MA and Regional Association Department, and Bowen Ying, Executive for East Asia Unit, AFC MA Division, joined Tanner and Vignesh in addressing the assembly.

FIFA Head of MA Governance Rolf Tanner addresses the assembly during the 11th Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Ordinary Congress held last Friday at the NMSA Conference Room.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In the historic event, the FIFA and AFC officials took note of NMIFA's efforts to hold football activities amid the COVID-19 pandemic and practice the principles of good governance.

"We see a community that has been actively involved in football development and it's a very good thing. You have exciting plans and projects and I wish you the best of luck in football development in the future," said the Zurich, Switzerland-based Tanner, adding that FIFA has received the NMIFA's application for membership.

During the congress, the NMIFA showcased its regular activities involving grassroots, youth, women's, and men's players, its development programs for coaches and referees, and the association's participation in social responsibility activities.

Vignesh, who joined the virtual congress from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, also commended NMIFA for doing a lot of things despite of the challenges brought about by the pandemic. The NMIFA, in June last year, safely resumed national team training and when the restrictions were eased this year, the association also managed to bring back its regular leagues and even hosted summer competitions.

Meanwhile, Mihara, who is a regular observer in the NMIFA congress, was pleased with the association's adoption of the statute changes approved in the 2020 congress, including the implementation of an electoral code. He also acknowledged the transparency that the NMIFA has shown in its detailed financial statement and other reports.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan thanked Mihara, Ying, Vignesh, and Tanner for their attendance at the congress and for the encouraging words that will further motivate NMIFA to stay on course in growing the sport in the CNMI and providing opportunities to all stakeholders.

NMIFA Executive Committee member and Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan, who delivered the closing remarks at the congress, added that with the strong support from the local and international communities and the CNMI government, the NMIFA will continue to see the love for football in the faces of players and others involved in the program. ***(PR)***

NMIVA postpones beach v-ball tryouts to Nov. 13

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association has put off its King and Queen of the Court Tryout originally set for this Saturday, Nov. 6, in the sand courts of the Crowne Plaza Resort (formerly Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan).

"NMIVA board has decided to postpone the beach volleyball qualifier tournament that was scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6, due to the current COVID-19 outbreak in our community. We have tentatively set the postponement date to a week later, Nov. 13, with the hopes that this outbreak is truly contained," said NMIVA president Somia Quan.

NMIVA earlier said the tryouts are being organized to help the NMIVA National Teams Committee determine who will compose the CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 set from June 17 to 25 next year.

"Please don't forget, to be eligible, you must be 16 and older and must be a U.S. citizen who has had a minimum of five years total residency in the CNMI," said NMIVA.

Originally set as a two-man beach volleyball tryout, the NMIVA National Teams Committee decided to make it an individual King/Queen of the Court Tryout. To register, go to Google Form. If you have any questions, email nmivolleyball@gmail.com.

NMIVA held its first tryout for the Mini Games national team last Oct. 23 and it saw 14 players show up. They were Dylan Mister, Damian Palacios, M.J., De Belen, Antonio Atalig III, Jermaine Salas, Blake Mister, Simon Necesito, Tyce Mister, Logan Mister, Tyler Wilsey, Bruce Berline, Toni Yamada, Chenny Lizama, Alyssa Pourmonir, Stacy Eno, and Savannah Delos Santos.

Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association's first tryout for the Mini Games national team last Oct. 23 drew a total of 14 players.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tony, Tania top 5K October virtual run

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tony Pang and Tania Tan submitted the fastest times in Run Saipan's Virtual 5K Underground Series 21.9 held over the weekend.

Making his debut on Run Saipan's underground series, Pang was sensational after smoking the competition in the men's division with a time of 22:24 while running at the MHS cross country course.

"It feels good because this is my first time winning. I hope I don't lose my running progress and I also want to say thanks to my family and friends for always motivating me!" said the 15-year-old sophomore at Marianas High School.

Barefoot runner Chong Nam Lee finished second among the men after he completed the race in 23:24, while Saipan International School headmaster and Northern Marianas Athletics distance coach Ron Snyder completed the Top 3 at 25:56. Lee and Snyder ran on Saipan.

Tan

Pang

Tan, a junior at Fordham University, topped the women's division after running the cross country meet at Cedarville, Ohio in 20:41.

The 20-year-old said conditions were really not ideal during the meet where she also completed the virtual 5K. "It was really rainy, muddy, and cold. I wish I wore more layers because my hands were freezing the whole time."

Tan is also grateful to Run Saipan that she was still able to take part in local sports activities despite going off to college in the U.S. mainland.

"I just feel grateful to continue to be supporting events back home in Saipan, even if I'm halfway across the globe. It feels nice to be able to still participate in Saipan-related events, because they are always so much fun. I just want to continue to support our island community in whatever way possible, and I'm glad I got to do so this weekend!" she said.

Audrey Christley settled for second place in the women's with a time of 22:29, while Evelyn Pangelinan placed third in 27:31. Both ran on Saipan.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. congratulated the Top 3 in the men's and women's divisions and also thanked everyone who took part in the Virtual 5K Underground Series 21.9. A total of 20 runners took part in the 5K virtual run.

"I was amazed by the last-minute participation from our Run Saipan family near and far. Congratulations and strong work to all our runners during this Halloween weekend going out and getting their 5Ks in…Well done to everyone. I hope everyone takes advantage of our next virtual 5K in the future," he said.

Dela Cruz said the location of the runs were based off where the runners ran their 5Ks.

"One thing I love about virtual is being able to see

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Balanced Heat hold off late Mavericks rally, win 125-110 PAGE 17

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Braves win 1st World Series crown since 1995

By BEN WALKER
AP BASEBALL WRITER

Most of the season, it just seemed this wasn't their year. They dropped their first four games, and soon injuries piled up. They lost their most dynamic player before the All-Star break. They were stuck below .500 in August.

Yet out of nowhere, suddenly, these Atlanta Braves transformed themselves and took off.

Jorge Soler, Freddie Freeman and the Braves breezed to their first World Series championship since 1995, hammering the Houston Astros 7-0 on Tuesday night in Game 6. Max Fried threw six dominant innings in a signature pitching performance to close it out.

"We hit every pothole, every bump you could possibly hit this year," Freeman said. "Injuries, every single kind of thing that could happen, that could go wrong went wrong, and we overcame every single one of those things."

How proud The Hammer himself would've been.

Even so, Atlanta's troubles never fully went away.

General manager Alex Anthopoulos, the architect of the Braves' midseason turnaround, missed this crowning achievement after testing positive for COVID-19. He was back home for the clincher.

Soler, a July acquisition who tested positive for the coronavirus in the playoffs, backed Fried early with a monster three-run shot for his third homer against the Astros.

Freeman hit an RBI double and then punctuated the romp with a solo home run in the seventh that made it 7-0.

The Atlanta Braves celebrate after winning baseball's World Series in Game 6 against the Houston Astros Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021, in Houston. The Braves won 7-0. AP

By then, it was a total team effort. Ailing star Ronald Acuña Jr., the dynamo of Atlanta's future, bounded from the dugout to join the celebration for Freeman, the longtime face of the franchise.

When Yuli Gurriel grounded out to end it, Freeman caught the throw at first base, put the ball in his pocket, and the party was on for manager Brian Snitker's club.

A full hour after the game, hundreds of Braves fans packed behind the team's third base dugout kept doing the chop and chant, causing loud echoes to bounce around the ballpark.

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Houston Astros second baseman Jose Altuve and shortstop Carlos Correa email after their win in Game 5 of baseball's World Series between the Houston Astros and the Atlanta Braves Monday, Nov. 1, 2021, in Atlanta. AP

World Series defeat could mark end of era for Astros

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP SPORTS WRITER

HOUSTON (AP)—Carlos Correa stood on the dugout steps watching as Yuli Gurriel grounded out to end Game 6 of the World Series before slowly walking away and heading into Houston's clubhouse for what could be the last time.

"I was just thinking this is crazy how you spend—and you give your life and everything you have to an organization and then one day you don't belong to the organization anymore just in a matter

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A most improbable team brings Atlanta a title

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

During three decades of nearly uninterrupted excellence, there were so many Atlanta Braves teams that seemed more championship worthy than this one.

The 1993 squad chased down the San Francisco Giants to win one of baseball's last great division races. The '96 group wiped out the New York pinstripers in the first two games of the World Series at Yankee Stadium. The '97, '98 and '99 teams all won more that 100 games.

Yet it was these Braves—who didn't climb above .500 until early August, who endured a devastating rash of injuries and other setbacks, who had to wheel and deal ahead of the trade deadline to assemble a whole new outfield—who finally brought the tortured A-T-L another title.

No one could've seen it coming.

Well, except for those players dancing in the center of Minute Maid Park early Wednesday morning.

Atlanta Braves left fielder Eddie Rosario stands next to the trophy after the team's win in the World Series against the Houston Astros, Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021, in Houston. AP

"These guys never gave up on themselves," manager Brian Snitker said. "We used a lot of guys, we lost a lot of pieces over the course of the summer. It was just the next man up. These guys never stopped believing in themselves."

If they were the least bit familiar with their team's history, they had to know how fickle the baseball gods can be.

The Braves won 14 straight division titles from 1991-2005, a staggering streak that may never be eclipsed. They got back to the postseason as a wild card in 2010, Bobby Cox's final season as manager. They claimed another wild card in 2012, followed by a return to the top of the NL East in 2013. A painful rebuilding job came next, but it paid off with another streak of division titles that has grown to four.

When you add it all up, that's 21 postseason appearances in the last 30 completed seasons—a run that meets nearly every requirement to be called a dynasty except the only one that really matters.

Championships.

The '95 Braves had been the only team to win it all during those 20 previous trips to the playoffs.

And even that victory, as glorious and satisfying as it was for a city that has known so much heartache, wound up feeling a bit hollow because of the four other times Atlanta lost the World Series during that single decade, a lone triumph nearly obscured by all the gut-wrenching disappointments.

To this day, it's hard to fathom that a team assembled by a

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